The turfgrass canopy and its environment

by Loren J. Giesler and Dr. Gary Y. Yuen
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A canopy is often thought of as the leafy portion of a tree or shrub, but turfgrasses can also be thought of as having a canopy. Picture yourself in a typical forest canopy. You are surrounded by living plant tissue. Notice how cool, dark, and damp it is within the canopy even though it may be a hot, dry, sunny day. The forest foliage influences the environment within the canopy (the micro-environment) and causes conditions within the canopy to be greatly different from outside of the canopy, or the ambient environment.

In a similar manner, the turfgrass canopy is formed by overhanging foliage. Micro-environmental conditions within the turf canopy can vary markedly from ambient conditions and can greatly affect the activity of organisms (i.e. turfgrass diseases). Little is known, however, of what effects turfgrass management practices have on the canopy environment.
Changing the canopy

The physical structure of turfgrass canopies is regularly altered by management practices, and therefore the canopy micro-environment is also changed. An obvious alteration is mowing, which affects the height of the canopy. As the height of a canopy is lowered, air mixing within the canopy extends to the soil surface. This results in drier canopy conditions in lower cut canopies.

A more subtle change in canopy structure is turf density or canopy density. Canopy density refers to the total number of blades in a given area. As the density of a canopy increases, the air movement within the canopy becomes more limited. This limited air movement results in much different micro-environmental conditions as compared to a canopy with greater air movement (i.e. low density canopy).

For turf species such as tall fescue which do not spread by rhizomes (underground lateral stems) or stolons (above-ground lateral stems), seeding rate can directly impact the density of the canopy. This will affect other species as well, but the duration of effect is limited. Canopy density can also be altered by cultivar selection. All species of turf have cultivars with different and unique qualities. Of these qualities, density and growth habit are normally listed.

In recent years, turfgrass cultivars have been developed by plant breeders that produce very dense and compact canopies. These canopies are chosen primarily for aesthetic reasons, as “carpet-like” canopies are desired. Many of the newer cultivars also have more delicate, less rigid blades as compared to the older releases.

In the Great Plains, tall fescue is a popular turfgrass and is selected for its drought and shade tolerance. This turf also has low fertility requirements. Since the original release of tall fescue cultivars ‘Alta’ and ‘Kentucky-31’ in 1940, many cultivars have been developed. Tall fescue cultivars are classified into three main groups (Tall, Medium, and Dwarf). The tall cultivars are represented by the original releases and are sometime referred to as forage-type tall fescue cultivars. While it is not well documented, the tall cultivars are associated with low density canopies and have upright growth habits and do not generally produce dense canopies unless seeded at high rates at the time of establishment. This association is thought to be due to the input of resources available to the plant into top-growth instead of root-growth or shoot production.

The medium and dwarf cultivars are the newer released cultivars and generally produce low growing and dense canopies. This reduces mowing frequency and decreases lawn refuse. Currently, there are over 100 tall fescue cultivars available to select from. New, dense cultivars have been suggested to have increased disease problems and this has been confirmed for brown patch disease by research conducted at the University of Nebraska.

Field Tips

Integrate the ideas on turfgrass canopy management

The integration of these ideas into a management system is demonstrated in the following example.

Mark is a turfgrass manager in the Great Plains. He will be establishing turfgrass into an area which has been known to have brown patch problems. (Even if he doesn’t know that brown patch is present this would be a safe assumption, as the pathogen is found nearly everywhere.)

He also anticipates that this turf will be maintained under high maintenance, and therefore, has a higher potential for brown patch in the future. He wants to plant tall fescue because he can reduce his inputs to produce a high quality turf. He knows that by selecting a cultivar with a tall structure, a canopy with reduced density will be established. He can plant at a seeding rate of 6 lbs/1000 ft² or less.

Brown patch disease and tall fescue as a model study system

Brown patch is the most destructive disease of tall fescue from the Southern U.S. through the Great Plains. Also known as Rhizoctonia blight, this disease is caused by the fungus Rhizoctonia solani, which is a widespread inhabitant of soil and thatch. Typically, the disease causes large brown patches which can range from a few
inches to over two feet in diameter. Individual diagnostic lesions on the blades are irregular-shaped, bleached areas with dark margins. Spread of the disease occurs through the movement of infected grass blades or growth of the fungus through the canopy by hyphae, or thread-like strands.

As with all turfgrass diseases, infection by the brown patch fungus and the development of symptoms are affected by environmental conditions. Environmental conditions which favor growth of the fungus in a canopy are warm temperatures (night temperatures above 60°F and daytime temperatures above 85°F) and high relative humidity or free leaf moisture. Disease development is also determined by the influence of weather on the host. In the Great Plains, the disease typically occurs during the hot summer months, when the cool season grasses are stressed. In contrast, brown patch disease in the southern U.S. occurs to a greater extent in early spring and fall, when warm season grasses are more stressed by cool temperatures. We have found in our research that the severity of brown patch disease development during these favorable weather periods can be reduced by cultural practices.

Increased canopy density: positive attribute or potential problem?

While much breeding effort has gone into the development of compact and dense tall fescue cultivars, the question of whether or not this is a positive attribute does arise. Studies comparing cultivars of tall fescue for their susceptibility to brown patch disease have been conducted at many locations within the U.S. One piece of information lacking in many of these reports is a canopy density measurement.

In our research, canopy density is quantified by extracting plugs from the canopy using a standard cup cutter. These plugs are then taken back to the laboratory where numbers of individual shoots and blades per shoot are counted. Multiplying shoot number by the number of blades per shoot gives an estimation of blade density for a given canopy. In studies involving 14 tall fescue cultivars, we find that susceptibility in the field is greatly affected by canopy density. (See figure on page 5.) As canopy density increases so does brown patch disease severity. This relationship has also been demonstrated in agronomic crops.

We have also tested these 14 cultivars for their susceptibility to brown patch disease under uniform micro-environmental conditions in a growth chamber, and found them to vary considerably. In the field, however, the effects of canopy density appears to mask differences among cultivars in susceptibility determined in the growth chamber. In fact, levels of brown patch disease are higher for the resistant cultivar as a group than for the susceptible cultivars.

We also tested seeding density, as another cultural practice which can greatly modify the canopy environment, for its effects on brown patch disease. Experiments with a tall type cultivar 'Fawn' showed that increasing seeding rates result in increased brown patch disease up to two years into a planted area.

In a study in which tall fescue 'Fawn' was seeded at 2, 6, and 10 lbs/1000 ft², brown patch disease severity increased with increasing seeding rates. In the first year of establishment, twice as much disease activity was observed in the highest seeding rate as compared to the lowest seeding rate. In the second year, disease severity was approximately 20% lower in the low density canopy than the high density canopy.

While he may have to use slightly more weed control initially, because of the low grass population, the outcome will be a full canopy with lower density and therefore, will have reduced potential for brown patch. He will maintain a mowing height of 2.5 inches to further reduce the potential for disease. As tall fescue has a deep root system which is associated with drought tolerance, he can apply deep watering techniques at a lower frequency. This will help to reduce moisture within the canopy and further reduce the risk of brown patch disease.

While this scenario is a logical one, most people want something better than a low-density, coarse lawn. In order for ideas such as these to be accepted and practiced, it will take a change in the attitude of the consumer.

We are in a time of greater environmental awareness and everyone would like a carpet-like lawn without the use of chemicals. While this is not possible at the present time, turfgrass managers could play a vital role in education the consumer public as to the benefits of lower seeding rates, use of cultivars with lower canopy density, and maintaining a moderate to low cutting height during the height of the brown patch disease season.

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Why do high density canopies sustain increased brown patch disease?

One explanation for increased brown patch disease in high density canopies is that the micro-environmental conditions within those canopies are more disease-favorable. By measuring conditions within the canopies of low and high density turfs, we have found that high density tall fescue canopies have prolonged periods of moisture (See figure Page 1.) Leaf surfaces dried 1 to 2.5 hours later each day in the high density turfs. There were also more extended periods of high humidity in the high density canopies due to reduced air movement. This gives the brown patch fungus more time to grow across leaf surfaces and to infect tissues. Temperatures were found to be similar for low and high density turfs.
Another way in which high density turfs affect disease development is by increasing the potential for spread of the brown patch fungus within the canopy. *Rhizoctonia solani* is limited to spreading by hyphal growth or dispersal of infected grass blades through mowing. The fungus does not produce spores and therefore, does not spread by serial means. Growth through the canopy is limited by the proximity of healthy leaf blades surrounding a leaf blade infected with the fungus or merely harboring the fungus on its surface. We observed the brown patch fungus to spread from leaf blade to leaf blade or from plant to plant more rapidly in high density turfs because deaf blades are closer together.

Increased cutting height; positive attribute or potential problem?

The common recommendation, in regards to mowing height, is to increase cutting heights during portions of the year when the turf is under stress. For tall fescue, this is in the hot mid-summer months, also during which the brown patch fungus is most active. By increasing cutting heights at this time, the turf canopy environment is caused to be more disease-favorable. The figure on page 4 shows the effect of cutting height on brown patch disease. This effect has been shown not only in our research, but also has been reported at many other locations.
Anatomy of the banning of three pesticides

by Christopher Sann

On October 12, as part of the settlement of a lawsuit brought by the State of California, and others, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it was revoking the agricultural use registrations of 25 well-known pesticides for their use on food. Listed among those 25 pesticides were 15 commonly used in turfgrass management. Within that group of 15 were [three pesticides], two fungicides, Iprodione and Bayleton, and one insect control, Orthene. All of these pesticides' agricultural use registrations, [including these three], have been revoked because the EPA has concluded that they “induce cancer”. (Ed. note: see News Brief on page 11.)

What was the lawsuit about?

The lawsuit was brought because, despite previously introduced evidence by the plaintiffs, the EPA had continued to allow the use of these 25 pesticides for the production of food under the provisions of its food additive regulations even though measurable traces of these pesticides or their metabolites (break-down compounds) were detectable either in a raw agriculture commodity or its final processed form.

The plaintiffs contended that, by allowing detectable residues in food, the EPA was in violation of the “zero-tolerance” provisions of the so-called Delany clause of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). They maintained, and the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals agreed that the Delany clause barred the establishment of food additive regulations, tolerances, or exceptions for residues of any pesticides that had been demonstrated to induce cancer, no matter how small the risk.

What happened to these pesticides?

In the announced settlement of this lawsuit, the EPA agreed to cancel the food additive tolerances that had previously existed for the listed 25 pesticides. In the process they revoked the use registrations for certain agricultural uses of each pesticide. Additionally the EPA agreed, over the next five years, to examine all of its remaining pesticide food additive regulations, or so-called 409s, to determine whether any of the remaining tolerances violate the Delany clause’s zero-tolerance provisions for cancer inducing pesticide residues in the food supply. As violations of the Delany clause are found, the EPA will move to revoke the agricultural uses. The EPA estimates that the agricultural uses of an additional 49 pesticides could be affected.

What guidelines are used?

When trying to determine the ability of a compound to induce animal cancers, the EPA uses a “weight of the evidence” standard. The carcinogenicity of a substance in animals is determined when the substance is administered to test animals in a scientific study and a thorough examination of the test subjects at the end of the study yields a statistically significant increase in malignant neoplasms. This approach to determining a substance’s ability to induce cancer is conducted independently of the likelihood or risk that the same levels of exposure and duration imposed on the test animals may be reached in humans and is conducted in this manner to show potential for occurrence rather than actual occurrences. This technique for determining cancer causing potential meets the zero tolerance conditions of the Delany clause.

Using this weight of the evidence standard, tests conducted to meet these standards led the EPA to determine that the commonly used pesticides acephate (Orthene), triadimefon (Bayleton), and iprodione (Chipco 26019) induce cancer.

What were the test results?

Acephate or Orthene

After tests were conducted using acephate, the EPA concluded that “exposure to acephate results in the induction of malignant hepatocellular carcinomas in female CD1 mice”.

Both male and female CD1 mice were exposed to three levels of acephate: 50, 250, 1000 parts per million (ppm) of body weight, over a two year period. Of those test animals that were still alive at the end of the test, only the female mice that had been exposed to the 1000 ppm dosage showed signs of increased incidence of hepatocellular and hyperplastic nodules of the liver that
were significantly higher than the historical range for that strain of test animals at that testing laboratory.

When acephate was tested under laboratory conditions for genotoxicity (the ability to mutate genes) it was found that exposure to acephate caused genetic mutations in Salmonella, E. coli, and S. cerevisiae strains of bacteria and lymphoma cells of mice, Chinese hamster ovary cells, and DNA recombinant in Saccharomyces (unicellular yeast) cells.

Based on the increased incidence of liver cancers in mice, the six positive indications for genotoxicity under laboratory conditions, and using its weight of the evidence standard, the EPA decided that sufficient evidence had been developed to warrant the identification of acephate as a substance that induces cancer.

Triadimefon or Bayleton

Testing results indicated that exposures of 1000 ppm of triadimefon caused significantly higher incidence of heptocellular adenomas in both male and female mice than the control animals and that the incidence of these adenomas was found to be dose related, i.e. the higher the dose, the higher the incidence of adenomas.

Initially, triadimefon was not thought to be responsible for this increase in tumors, but a peer review committee determined that information contained in a pathology report indicated that the pathological evidence required a second evaluation. When the original slides of the tumors from the original study were re-evaluated under the more stringent criteria of current analysis standards, it was determined that the lesions examined were heptocellular adenomas and carcinomas. Heptocellular adenomas are considered to be benign tumors but they can progress into carcinomas or malignancies. When indications of both liver adenomas and carcinomas are found during an examination, then the test substance is considered to have stronger ability to induce cancers. An additional two year study found that exposure to triadimefon caused dose-related increases in thyroid follicular cell adenomas and cystic hyperplasia.

When the triadimefon test data were combined with historic positive data from tests for induction of carcinomas by other closely related compounds which have indicated a tendency to induce adenomas and carcinomas, the EPA concluded that exposure to triadimefon causes heptocellular adenomas and carcinomas of the liver and thyroid follicular cell adenomas and cystic hyperplasia and that exposure to triadimefon induces cancer.

Iprodione or Chipco 26019

Test results indicated that exposure to iprodione produced increased incidences of heptocellular carcinomas in male mice, combined heptocellular adenomas and carcinomas in both male and female mice, ovarian lutenomas in female mice, and testicular interstitial cell tumors in male mice.

Ninety-nine week tests of mice exposed to 160, 800, 1400 ppm per body weight of iprodione found a significant increase in both benign and malignant liver cell tumors. At the higher doses male mice were found to have higher incidences of interstitial cell hyperplasia, benign tumors, and significant other changes to the structures of the testes. There was also an increase in lutenomas and tubular hyperplasia of the ovaries in female mice at the highest dose levels.

The EPA combined this test evidence with information about related compounds which have been associated with adverse effects on reproductive organs and the liver, and concluded that Chipco 26019 induces cancer.

TGT View — It is clear from this information, that turfgrass and landscape managers will have to start to ask more questions about the safety of their chemical pesticide tools. What managers do with that information will be up to them, but making an informed decision requires that all of the information about a product's safety is available. The previous lack of information about the safety of these three pesticide products indicates that, in these three cases, the pesticide users, the people that buy pesticide products and keep pesticide manufacturers in business, have not been well served. Manufacturers have an obligation to the applicators of their products to keep them well informed about all aspects of their product's safety. It is the least they can do to those of us who have the greatest exposures. The source document for this article is EPA Document No. OPP-300360 "Acephate, Triadimefon, Iprodione, and Imazalil; Revocation of Food Additive Regulations" —CS
The "Brave New World" has arrived

by Christopher Sann

Recently, there have been two minor developments at the federal government level that will be significant to the future of turfgrass management: one at the regulatory level and the other at the legislative level. I think these two "blips on the radar" demonstrate the direction that the regulatory environment concerning the pesticide application industry will be taking in the future.

They may be insignificant but they are sure signs of change that is clearly in progress. It is a change that will affect the way turfgrass managers operate.

Legislative developments

Almost certainly in response to the Clinton administration's initiative to promote the use of integrated pest management (IPM) and to reduce pesticide usage in agriculture, a bill, HR5270, entitled the "Farm Viability and Pest Management Improvement Act of 1994" was introduced in the House.

This legislation strongly promotes IPM as the best pest management strategy for agriculture and would in all cases categorize "pesticide use" as the option of last resort.

The bill provides for the formation of regional pesticide reduction councils whose goals would be to develop plans that would lead to a measurable reduction in the use of all pesticides. States whose regional councils plans failed to meet EPA approval or who were unable to demonstrate reductions in pesticide usage, could have their authorizations to use pesticides reduced or eliminated. To fund itself, a .667% fee on the dollar value of all pesticide would be imposed.

Regulatory developments

In the recent settlement of the "Delany clause" lawsuit, the EPA has agreed to the cancellation of the use-registrations of 25 pesticides. (Ed. note: see News Brief on page 11.)

Fifteen of these pesticides are used in both the turfgrass and landscape industries. The EPA also agreed to look at 49 other pesticides to see if their current agricultural uses fall afoul of the no-carcinogenity provisions of the "Delany clause".

Even though this settlement only applies to the agricultural uses of these pesticides, history has shown that once a pesticide has lost economically significant agricultural uses because of toxicity or carcinogenity reasons, or has been identified as a problem material, that product rapidly disappears for use in turf and ornamentals.

To understand what effect this settlement will have in the long run, three pesticides, previously unidentified as being cancer-causing, Orthene, Chipco 26019, and Bayleton have been targeted in this settlement. These three pesticides are considered by many in the turfgrass industry to be mainstay fungicides and are used extensively in the management of turfgrass diseases such as Dreschlera leaf spot, Dollar spot, Brown patch, and Summer patch.

As these three pesticides become identified by the general population as being "problem" materials, it will become increasingly difficult for turfgrass managers, particularly on golf courses, to use them. Once that scenario takes place, these materials will rapidly disappear from the marketplace.

These steps are sure steps

Although these are only two small developments (as structured HR5270 will probably not pass and the targeted pesticides will probably be available for use in turf for several years to come), they illustrate the steps that are being taken in government to implement the provisions of the "reduced pesticide initiative." Short of a regulatory about-face the implementation of these new regulations will take place.

Can this initiative be derailed?

Various pesticide user groups, like turfgrass and landscape management, will gnash their teeth, wail and moan, occasionally "shoot the messenger", and may even get the implementation of certain provisions temporarily delayed, but they cannot stem the tide.

There won't be a fire storm of controversy in the agriculture industry which will burn these new regulations, because the agriculture industry, the only group large enough to have the clout to stop IPM implementa-
A business decision

Buying, leasing, or renting equipment

by Christopher Sann

Many turfgrass and landscape managers can become “equipment happy.”

Most small business persons have a great deal of pride in the business that they have conceiving of, started, and succeeded at. One way to illustrate their success to the world is to own equipment. Unfortunately, this desire to show success often results in the inappropriate acquisition of equipment.

Inappropriate, not in the sense that equipment that has been acquired is the wrong equipment for the job, rather that owning the equipment for the sake of ownership has become an end unto itself. Then, the ownership can become a business problem that makes it difficult to run the company.

A helpful way to avoid this problem is for managers or owners to take a serious look at leasing or renting, rather than buying equipment. Going through the process of making an informed, business leasing, renting, or buying decision can help managers in several ways. First, the decision has a better chance of being based on sound business grounds. Secondly, the decision-making process takes ego out of the equation. And, finally, there is a better chance of saving money.

Make formal buying decisions

The first step in making any buying, renting or leasing decision is an obvious one: determine if you need a certain piece of equipment. Once a need for a piece of equipment has been confirmed, the next step is to decide how often you would use that piece of equipment per week, month, season or year and for how many years it would be needed. How often you need a piece of equipment and for how long you need it are the determining factors as to whether you rent, lease or buy that equipment.

Rent, buy or lease?

Once you have determined what equipment you need and how often you will use it, then you must compare that information against standards used to identify the means of acquiring the equipment. Although the way the equipment is used is the final factor that you must use to determine the best method of acquisition, some general rules can be applied.

Renting

If you use the equipment infrequently, and its use is based on jobs that you might develop in the future and not on present contracts, then you are better off renting the equipment. By renting you avoid maintenance and repair costs, the expense of finding out if that particular piece of equipment is appropriate to the job, and all the other costs of ownership. When you rent, the cost for the rental is a fixed cost and it is easy to include that cost in any bid or cost estimate.

The one exception to this rental rule is for smaller, less expensive equipment. If you estimate that the total rental cost during a given year will exceed half of the purchase price of that equipment or that the total purchase price is less than $250, and you may have use for the same equipment in the future, then purchase the equipment. Deducting the entire cost of such equipment may be appropriate. Consult your accountant to be sure.

Buying

If you have a periodic, but unpredictable need for the use of a piece of equipment over a period of longer than three to four years or the use of that equipment requires access to it in less than 48 to 72 hours, then buying may be the right thing to do. If you will not have a need for improved versions of the equipment at a later date, or the equipment’s immediate availability is required by contractual agreement, then buying may also be right.

As an example, consider snow removal equipment. The need for snow removal equipment in the northern regions is consistent, but in the transition zone the need is only occasional. If you need snow removal equipment in the transition zone it should be bought. With snow removal equipment having immediate access is the most important factor, so renting is inappropriate and over the long term leasing may cause cash flow problems.

Leasing

Leasing, which is basically a long-term rental arrangement, should be considered in any situation that does not meet the above two standards. Leasing has obvious and not so obvious advantages.

The most obvious advantage of leasing equipment is under consistently predictable production situations,
News Briefs

Brave New World continued from page 8

tion, has already surrendered.

Agriculture knows these new rules are coming and it, using evidence from earlier battles by other pesticide user groups, has decided that it won’t mount a full scale attack on the new regulations but it will fight their imposition at the edges. Agriculture has decided that it wants to have some input in the process, so that the final regulations are not conceived by bureaucrats alone.

Will the Republican majority slow things?

If you think that the new Republican majority of the Congress will halt the imposition of many of the new pesticide use-regulations, I remind you of actions of the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Bush and Reagan, good Republicans both, and a bit like the current crop of anti-government zealots, professed a hatred for environmental legislation and regulation. But many new environmental laws were passed and many new pesticide regulations were enacted during their terms in office.

Despite all their bluster, politicians from both the left and the right understand that to challenge or obstruct environmental legislation designed to protect the American people is, like reducing Social Security benefits, the political equivalent of touching the third rail.

What should we do?

When I go through my repertoire of appropriate old sayings designed to reduce the pain of the inevitable, one in particular comes to mind, the Anonymous Prayer. It goes like this, “God grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, the courage to change those things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

EPA consolidates label change policies

In order to reduce the confusion caused by different implementation dates on mandated changes in product labeling, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has formed the EPA Labeling Unit.

This unit will be responsible to coordinate all labeling changes and will implement them on October 1 of each year. Currently, the deadlines for publishing revised labels often depends on the wording of the new regulation. By requiring a single date each year for the imposition of label changes to a product, the EPA hopes to reduce any confusion caused by the regulatory process. Additionally, the EPA will require that the labeled changes would go into effect on the next October 1 following the imposition of mandated changes.

TGT View - With coming widespread changes in the availability and use of many pesticide products and formulations, all applicators will now be able to better plan for the future. If on Oct. 2 of each year, the current product label says that an application of a given product can be used for a given purpose, then the applicator can have confidence that he can use that material for at least the next year. —CS

Buying, Leasing, or Renting continued from page 9

particularly where upgrading the equipment every three to four years may be an important way of keeping that production at maximum efficiency. High-use production situations have a tendency to “use up” equipment, even when that equipment is very well maintained. By leasing high-use equipment for three to four years, managers have the use of that equipment under peak circumstances with little down time. Depending on the terms of the lease, once the lease period is over, the equipment can either be returned or purchased at a previously arranged nominal fee.

Leasing is particularly attractive if you are acquiring a newly designed or untested piece of equipment. It is also attractive if you need it for a limited period — say two to three years — or when such equipment has been shown to have a limited effective life span. Leasing for limited periods is particularly effective when the equipment is still in the development phase.

One of the benefits of leasing has to do with returning the equipment after the lease period has ended. Once the equipment has been returned, it can be replaced with a newer version of the same model. Surrendering short-term leased equipment allows turfgrass and landscape managers to take advantage of newer versions of the same models or change to a different equipment model that is better engineered. This ability to change or upgrade optimizes business efficiency by keeping operators from being saddled with outmoded or overworked equipment.

Does leasing cost more than buying?

Historically, leasing has been approached as strictly an accounting decision and the financial aspects of a leasing agreement are very important, but the decision whether to lease, buy or rent equipment should be, first and foremost, a business decision.

10 • TURF GRASS TRENDS • MARCH 1995
Delany settlement lists pesticide phase-out

Following the settlement of a lawsuit between the EPA and the NRDC, AFL-CIO, and other groups over the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Delany Clause, which bans carcinogenic pesticide residues in the food supply, the EPA has released a list of 46 uses of 25 pesticides that will be phased out to meet the requirements of the settlement. Even though no turf uses of any of the pesticides were banned, 15 of the 25 listed pesticides are commonly used in either turf or horticultural areas.

Based on a conversation with an individual involved in ag-extension work in the mid-Atlantic area, these pesticides have been banned because they have been shown to be at least minimally carcinogenic and the residues from their use can be detected in either raw or processed foods.

Listed below is the chemical name of each of the 15 pesticides, its common name, and the banned uses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pesticide</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Banned usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acephate</td>
<td>Orthene</td>
<td>soybeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benomyl</td>
<td>Benlate</td>
<td>apples, grapes, tomatoes, soybeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>captan</td>
<td>Orthocide</td>
<td>grapes, tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorothalonil</td>
<td>Daconil 2787</td>
<td>potatoes, soybeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dichlovos</td>
<td>Vapoma</td>
<td>soybeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dicofol</td>
<td>Kelthane</td>
<td>apples, grapes, tomatoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>dimethoate</td>
<td>Cygon</td>
<td>apples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iprodione</td>
<td>Chico 26019</td>
<td>grapes</td>
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<td>lindane</td>
<td>Lintox</td>
<td>tomatoes</td>
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<td>mancozeb</td>
<td>Dithane 45</td>
<td>barley, oats, potatoes, rye, wheat, apples, grapes</td>
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<td>meb</td>
<td>Fore</td>
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<td>PCNB</td>
<td>Terrachlor</td>
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<td>thiophanate</td>
<td>Fungo 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>methyl</td>
<td></td>
<td>apples, barley, grapes, wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trifluralin</td>
<td>treflan</td>
<td>potatoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TGT's View - As part of the settlement, the EPA agreed to review an additional 49 pesticides, that are alleged to be cancer-causing, within the next five years. This coming review combined with the above list may ultimately lead to the elimination of many tried and true pesticide tools from both the turfgrass and the landscape manager's tool box. Turf and landscape managers should start to look for replacement products for the above listed fifteen pesticides as their long term survival in the marketplace is now in doubt. Even if the canceling of the agricultural uses for these pesticides does not cripple the manufacturing of these products, turf and landscape managers may not want to be using any materials that have been identified as cancer-causing. — CS*

E.P.A. to cancel registrations of 1480 pesticides

The Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) has said it will cancel the “registration for use” of 1480 pesticide formulations for failure of the products’ formulators to pay the annual registration maintenance fees for 1994.

The deadline for acceptance of the fees was April 15, 1994. Most of these cancellations were for pesticide formulations that were no longer in production and the E.P.A. estimates that their cancellation will have very little effect on the agricultural, horticultural, or turfgrass markets. In addition to the announced cancellations, at the request of their producers, the registration fees for 42 minor use pesticides were waived by the E.P.A., which also deferred cancellation of 11 other pesticide formulation registrations for 90 days while interested parties other than the current registered producers support the products’ re-registration. Likewise, the E.P.A. delayed cancellation of five active ingredients which will disappear from the marketplace unless outside parties are found to support these five active ingredients’ re-registration.

Stocks of the canceled products could be distributed at the wholesale level until Jan. 15, 1995 and the products can be sold and used until supplies run out.
C (continued)

composts
in aerated vessel systems, January 1994: 6
aeration and dragging, December 1994: 3
aerobic environment, January 1994: 6
All Grow, January 1994: 1
for annual bluegrass, January 1994: 6
antagonistic micro-organisms in, January 1994: 4
antagonistic organisms in, January 1994: 8
appearance, December 1994: 2, December 1994: 4
ash content, December 1994: 3; December 1994: 4
Balt. sludge, January 1994: 11
bark, January 1994: 7
biosolids, December 1994: 2, December 1994: 4
brewery waste, January 1994: 1
carbon to nitrogen ratio, December 1994: 4; December
1994: 5
cellulose and hemicellulose components, January
1994: 6
in clay soils, December 1994: 1, December 1994: 2
cow manure, January 1994: 11
for creeping bentgrass, January 1994: 11
defined, January 1994: 4
as disease control alternative, January 1994: 1, Janu-
ary 1994: 7
for disease suppression, January 1994: 4, January
1994: 6
dry, December 1994: 3
easing burden on landfills, January 1994: 9
ecology of key antagonists, January 1994: 8
Endicott sewage sludge, January 1994: 11, January
environmental parameters, January 1994: 4–5
on established turf, December 1994: 3
with a high soluble salt concentration, December
1994: 2–3
impact on root-rotting pathogens, January 1994: 7
lack of oxygen, January 1994: 6
made from sewage sludges, December 1994: 4–5
microbes, experiments, January 1994: 3
microbial antagonists in, January 1994: 1, January
1994: 7
microbiological variability in, January 1994: 7
moisture content, December 1994: 3
mushroom, January 1994: 11; December 1994: 5
odor, December 1994: 2; December 1994: 4
pH of, December 1994: 4; December 1994: 5
“pile” design, construction, and maintenance, January
1994: 4
potential of, January 1994: 9
problems with, January 1994: 1, January 1994: 8
Pseudomonas species from, January 1994: 7
for Pythium diseases, July 1994: 6
quality control, January 1994: 8
root zone amendments of, January 1994: 4
rototilling, December 1994: 3
in sandy soils, December 1994: 1
seed contamination, December 1994: 3
selecting, December 1994: 1–5
sewage sludge, January 1994: 7
as soil amendments, December 1994: 1
sources of, January 1994: 4
spreaders, December 1994: 3
suitability, December 1994: 2
suppressing turfgrass diseases, January 1994: 6, Feb-
uary 1994: 7
tests, January 1994: 7
temperature, in mesophilic and thermophilic popula-
tions, January 1994: 5
testing in field situations, January 1994: 1, January
1994: 8
three phases of, January 1994: 4–5
topdressing amendment, January 1994: 2, January
1994: 4
web, December 1994: 3
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation
and Liability Act (CERCLA), March 1994: 6
conidia
ascospores, April 1994: 7
of Dreschlera catenaria, April 1994: 6
of Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
failing to germinate, April 1994: 8
germinated, April 1994: 5
lacking in Rhizoctonia spp., June 1994: 2
Pink Snow Mold (Microdochium nivale), October
1994: 1
producing maximum disease symptoms, June 1994: 14
of Pyrenophora erythrospila, April 1994: 6, April
1994: 11
Connecticut, pesticide recertification standards, Sep-
tember 1994: 12
containment standards, March 1994: 7
cooling and maturation phase, of compost production,
January 1994: 5
cool-season Pythium
See Pythium root rot (Pythium graminicola)
copper sulfate, October 1994: 9
core aeration, January 1994: 2
corn gluten meal fertilizer, February 1994: 12
corn meal fertilizer, September 1994: 9
1994 Subject Index

Cornell University

Cornell Cooperative Extension publication, November 1994: 9
golf course IPM scouting program, March 1994: 4
integrated pest management, August 1994: 6-7
research on microbial fungicides, January 1994: 12
study of clippings, March 1994: 12
study of grub populations in lawns, August 1994: 6
Superintendents Diagnostic Short Course, October 1994: 10
tests on suppressive products, January 1994: 10
work by Dr. Eric Nelson, January 1994: 11

Cosmarium algae, February 1994: 14
cost-benefit analysis, on pesticides, November 1994: 11
costly mistakes, October 1994: 10-11
cow manure compost, field studies, January 1994: 11

Creeping bentgrass

considerations in fairway conversion program, June 1994: 12
controlled by dithiopyr, April 1994: 15
controlling with pre-emergent herbicides, April 1994: 14
and pre-emergent herbicides, March 1994: 13
scouting, March 1994: 5
Craven Laboratories, falsifying pesticide residue test results, August 1994: 13

Creeping red fescue

composts for, January 1994: 6
damping-off of seedlings, July 1994: 1
diagnosis of Pythium diseases, July 1994: 1

Enterobacter cloacae in, January 1994: 8
leaf spot on, April 1994: 6
nitrogen absorption, September 1994: 10
oospores of Pythium species, July 1994: 4
and Pythium graminicola, January 1994: 4
red leaf spot on, April 1994: 1, April 1994: 6
sporulation of Pythium in root cortex, July 1994: 4
symptoms of Pythium root rot damage, July 1994: 3
Toronto, April 1994: 11
damping-off

decomposition


deep cultivation techniques, and permeability, February 1994: 12
development, of pesticides, February 1994: 5
degree day modeling, May 1994: 5
Delaney clause
“no tolerance” wording, November 1994: 12
replaced by HR 1627/S 1478, March 1994: 7
Demonstration, Delaware, pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
Delaware Rural Water Association, on Clean Water Act, January 1994: 14
Department of Environmental Resources, Pennsylvania, December 1994: 5
Derby, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoidea, April 1994: 4
degradation, of pesticides, February 1994: 5
dethatching, November 1994: 10
“Devine” herbicide, January 1994: 10
Diamond Alkali fungicide, October 1994: 9
dioxin contamination, March 1994: 8
disease control decisions, October 1994: 9
disease cycle
defined, August 1994: 9
environmental conditions, August 1994: 9
invasive stage, August 1994: 9
in plant pathology, August 1994: 8; August 1994: 9
water management, August 1994: 9
disease management tools, January 1994: 1-2
disease tolerance, February 1994: 7
disease triangle
controlling environmental conditions, August 1994: 8
in plant pathology, August 1994: 8
dithiocarbamate, October 1994: 9
dithiocarbamate, EBDC, October 1994: 9
dithiocarbamate, EBDC, October 1994: 9
Dithiopyr pre-emergent herbicide
University of Florida study, April 1994: 15
DNA studies, August 1994: 11; August 1994: 15
technology, recombinant, February 1994: 8
Dollar Spot (Sclerotinia homoeocarpa) antagonists, January 1994: 3
 canopy temperatures, June 1994: 7
field trials, January 1994: 12
similarity to Pythium root rot and crown rot, July 1994: 3
similarity to Rhizoctonia lesions, June 1994: 4
susceptibility to, April 1994: 11
treatment with compost-amended topdressings, January 1994: 2
dormant fertilization, February 1994: 13, April 1994: 4
Dow Chemicals, ethylene dibromide fumigant, October 1994: 9
dragging, December 1994: 3
Dreschler, Charles, April 1994: 10
Dreschlera
 characteristics, April 1994: 1
classification, April 1994: 10-11
conidia, April 1994: 3
on cool-season grasses, April 1994: 11
cultural control practices, April 1994: 9
cultural management of, April 1994: 8
disease cycle, April 1994: 7
diseases, April 1994: 2, October 1994: 1, October 1994: 2
eliminating, April 1994: 9
and fertilization practices, April 1994: 9
and irrigation, April 1994: 8
leaf-spotting disease on Kentucky bluegrass, April 1994: 1
and mowing practices, April 1994: 9
plant hosts, April 1994: 9
and reducing air flow, April 1994: 9
species, April 1992: 2
spore germination, April 1994: 8
symptoms, April 1994: 8
taxonomy of, April 1994: 10-11
wetting agents for, April 1994: 8
See also Dreschlera poae
Dreschlera biseptata, April 1992: 2
Dreschlera catenaria
 and red leaf spot, April 1992: 2, April 1994: 6
on Toronto creeping bentgrass, April 1994: 11
Dreschlera conidia, February 1994: 3
Dreschlera dactyoides, classification, April 1994: 11
Dreschlera demotioidea, April 1992: 2
Dreschlera dictyoides
 classification, April 1994: 11
See also Pyrenophora dactyoides
Dreschlera erythrospila, classification, April 1994: 11
Dreschlera fugax, April 1992: 2
Dreschlera gigantea, April 1992: 1, April 1992: 2
Dreschlera noblea, April 1992: 2
Dreschlera poae
 characteristics, April 1994: 2
classification, April 1994: 11
disease development, April 1994: 3
diseases caused by, April 1992: 2
and high nitrogen fertilization, April 1994: 9
“melting out,” April 1994: 1
Dreschlera siccans
 characteristics, April 1994: 5
classification, April 1994: 11
conidia, April 1994: 4
controlling on perenniel ryegrass, April 1994: 5
disease development and control, April 1994: 5
diseases caused by, April 1992: 2
and nitrogen applications, April 1994: 9
of perennial ryegrass, April 1994: 1, April 1994: 4
Dreschlera triseptata, April 1992: 2
Dreschlera tritici-repentis, classification, April 1994: 11
drift, May 1994: 10-11
drinking water supplies, September 1994: 11
drought tolerance, January 1994: 14
dry composts, December 1994: 3
DuPont
 Benlate lawsuits, February 1994: 12
Thiram fungicide, October 1994: 9
dwarf tall fescue, clippings, March 1994: 12
E
earthworms, problems with, November 1994: 9-10
EcCT501 strain, in greenhouse test, January 1994: 7
Eclipse, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
ecosystem
cycle, September 1994: 1; September 1994: 2
turfgrass, March 1994: 13
ECPA pre-emergent herbicide, March 1994: 13
Emmundi, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
Endicott leaf compost, January 1994: 11
Endicott sludge compost
 field studies, January 1994: 11
results, January 1994: 1
to suppress turf diseases, January 1994: 2
dendophyte-infected seed, February 1994: 7
dendophytes, February 1994: 6
benefit to turfgrasses, February 1994: 7
study on drought tolerance, January 1994: 14
Enjoy, resistance to *Pyrenophora dictyoides*, April 1994: 5


*Enterobacter cloacae*
combined with other fungal antagonists, January 1994: 7

compared to fungicides, January 1994: 12

close control of multiple pathogens, January 1994: 12

in creeping bentgrass/annual bluegrass turf, January 1994: 8

experiments, January 1994: 3

in greenhouse test, January 1994: 7

environmental factors

in disease triangle, August 1994: 8

influence in turfgrass diseases, January 1994: 1, August 1994: 9

environmental movement, March 1994: 13, April 1994: 12

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), enforcing, August 1994: 13

grant to study effects of 2,4-D, April 1994: 12

hearings on Polluter Pays Bill, September 1994: 12

pesticide issues, November 1994: 12

proposal to exempt substances from pesticide laws, November 1994: 11

proposed regulations, November 1994: 13

removing suspect materials from marketplace, March 1994: 7

review of 2,4-D, March 1994: 15

risk assessment studies, March 1994: 7

statement on 2,4-D, March 1994: 9

stricter enforcement, August 1994: 13

Worker Protection Standards (WPS), August 1994: 14

enzymatic activity, and 2,4-D, March 1994: 8

*Epulorhiza spp.*

*See Rhizoctonia cerealis*

*Erwinia* bacteria, January 1994: 3

*Erysiphe graminis*, October 1994: 2

Estate, resistance to *Dreschlera poae*, April 1994: 3

Ethazole fungicide, July 1994: 7

ethofumesate, April 1994: 14

ethylene dibromide fumigant, October 1994: 9

Eukaryonta, classification, August 1994: 11

Eukaryotaec classification, August 1994: 11

European chafer (*Rhizotrogus mejalis*), August 1994: 2

“Exhibit” insecticide, January 1994: 11

F

fairway conversion program

aerifying and dethatching, June 1994: 11, June 1994: 12

aesthetic improvement, June 1994: 13


bentgrass experiments, June 1994: 13

Bermuda-Rygrass to Bent, July 1994: 13

closing the course, June 1994: 12

course preparation, June 1994: 10

eradication of Poa, July 1994: 14

fertilization levels, July 1994: 14

final broadcast seeding, July 1994: 11


hand-watering, July 1994: 13

herbicides, July 1994: 14


irrigation systems, June 1994: 10

light diffusion, June 1994: 10

member communications, June 1994: 10–12, July 1994: 12

mowing after renovation, July 1994: 13

planning and organizing, June 1994: 12

from poa to bentgrass, June 1994: 10–13, July 1994: 10

pre-implementation, June 1994: 12

renovation considerations, June 1994: 11

and residual chemicals, June 1994: 12

scalping the fairway, July 1994: 10

steps, July 1994: 10–11


water and air drainage, June 1994: 10

workers and schedules, July 1994: 13

Family classification, August 1994: 11

farm workers, average estimated daily exposure to herbicides, March 1994: 10

farming, health effects of, May 1994: 14

fatty-acid based insecticides, January 1994: 10

“Fawn” tall fescue, susceptibility to *Rhizoctonia solani*, June 1994: 9

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA), August 1994: 14

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), drug and alcohol testing, August 1994: 12


fenarimol fungicide, April 1994: 14, October 1994: 9

fenoxaprop, to control Bermuda grass, May 1994: 14

ferric to ferrous iron conversion, February 1994: 5

fertilization techniques, January 1994: 2

fertilizer

ammonium sulfate, September 1994: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>corn gluten meal,</td>
<td>February 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corn meal,</td>
<td>September 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dormant,</td>
<td>February 1994: 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in fairway conversion program,</td>
<td>July 1994: 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field studies,</td>
<td>January 1994: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for high environmental stress,</td>
<td>January 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBDU,</td>
<td>January 1994: 10; September 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa State University study,</td>
<td>February 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>methylene urea,</td>
<td>February 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milorganite,</td>
<td>February 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>natural organic,</td>
<td>November 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nitrogen,</td>
<td>September 1994: 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organic based,</td>
<td>January 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reducing nitrate leaching,</td>
<td>September 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>synthetic, very slow release,</td>
<td>January 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxing manufacturers of,</td>
<td>September 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ureaform,</td>
<td>February 1994: 12, September 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fescue, diseases caused by <em>Dreschlera</em> and <em>Pyrenophora</em>,</td>
<td>April 1994: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field diagnosis,</td>
<td>October 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fiesta II</em>, resistance to <em>Dreschlera siccans</em> and <em>Pyrenophora dictyoides</em>,</td>
<td>April 1994: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fine fescue</td>
<td>June 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chinch bug populations,</td>
<td>May 1994: 2, May 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clippings,</td>
<td>March 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close mowing of,</td>
<td>April 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hairy chinch bug infestations,</td>
<td>May 1994: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on home lawns,</td>
<td>April 1994: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>net blotch on,</td>
<td>April 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resistance to Microdochium patch,</td>
<td>October 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resistance to <em>Pyrenophora dictyoides</em>,</td>
<td>April 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhizoctonia</em> symptoms,</td>
<td>June 1994: 3, June 1994: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhula blight,</td>
<td>October 1994: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Flavobacterium</em> bacteria,</td>
<td>February 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Flavobacterium balustinum</em>, combined with other fungal antagonists,</td>
<td>January 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flooding, tolerance of grasses,</td>
<td>September 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida,</td>
<td>Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pesticide recertification credits for home study,</td>
<td>September 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>study of predator insects,</td>
<td>May 1994: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foliar blight,</td>
<td>July 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and aerial mycelium,</td>
<td>July 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compared to Pythium diseases,</td>
<td>July 1994: 4, July 1994: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compared to Pythium snow blight,</td>
<td>July 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and high humidity,</td>
<td>July 1994: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incited by Pythium species,</td>
<td>July 1994: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>initial symptoms,</td>
<td>July 1994: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>onset of tissue destruction,</td>
<td>July 1994: 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foliar health, historic emphasis on,</td>
<td>November 1994: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foliar mycelium</td>
<td>July 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>absence of,</td>
<td>July 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in post-emergence damping-off phase,</td>
<td>July 1994: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>food quality,</td>
<td>November 1994: 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foot rot causes,</td>
<td>April 1994: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and <em>Dreschlera siccans</em>,</td>
<td>April 1994: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>symptoms,</td>
<td>April 1994: 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>See also Dreschlera poae</em></td>
<td>Fore fungicide, July 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forestry workers, average estimated daily exposure to herbicides, March 1994: 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foxtail,</td>
<td>March 1994: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France, experiments with turfgrass pathogens,</td>
<td>January 1994: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruit fly maggots,</td>
<td>October 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fumigants,</td>
<td>October 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungal classification,</td>
<td>April 1994: 10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungal endophytes,</td>
<td>February 1994: 6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungal pathogens</td>
<td>January 1994: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manipulating to minimize loss,</td>
<td>January 1994: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in turfgrass plantings,</td>
<td>January 1994: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungal polymer,</td>
<td>February 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungal taxonomy,</td>
<td>April 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungi</td>
<td>August 1994: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ascomycetes,</td>
<td>August 1994: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asexual spores of,</td>
<td>April 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basidiomycetes,</td>
<td>August 1994: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>causing turfgrass diseases,</td>
<td>August 1994: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parasitic,</td>
<td>May 1994: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sexual reproductive structures of,</td>
<td>April 1994: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in soil,</td>
<td>February 1994: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungicide II fungicide,</td>
<td>July 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fungicides</td>
<td>January 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alternative,</td>
<td>January 1994: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alternative management practices,</td>
<td>January 1994: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and antagonistic micro-organisms,</td>
<td>January 1994: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Apron</em>,</td>
<td>July 1994: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Banner systemic</em>,</td>
<td>July 1994: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bayleton systemic</em>,</td>
<td>July 1994: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>benomyl</em>,</td>
<td>October 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio-rational,</td>
<td>October 1994: 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bordeaux mix, June 1994: 1, October 1994: 9
broad spectrum, January 1994: 12, February 1994: 4
Captan, October 1994: 9
chlorothalonil, April 1994: 4, October 1994: 9
competing with microbial inoculants, January 1994: 9
and compost-amended topdressings, January 1994: 2
contact, April 1994: 4
Diamond Alkali, October 1994: 9
EPA approval, January 1994: 12
excessive use of, January 1994: 1
fenarimol, April 1994: 14, October 1994: 9
Fore, July 1994: 7
Fosetyl-Al, July 1994: 7; October 1994: 9
freeze-dried, January 1994: 12
on golf course turf, February 1994: 6
heavy-metal contact, October 1994: 8
historic perspective, October 1994: 9
and human exposure, March 1994: 11
iprodione, April 1994: 4, October 1994: 8
Lesco 4, July 1994: 7
and microbial inoculants, January 1994: 8
microbial "species specific," January 1994: 10
Pace, July 1994: 7
PCNB, October 1994: 8
problems with, January 1994: 1
propiconizole, October 1994: 9
for Pythium diseases, July 1994: 6
resistance managed with microbial inoculants, January 1994: 9
Scotts Pro Turf, July 1994: 7
Scotts Pythium, July 1994: 7
starter cultures, January 1994: 12
systemic, October 1994: 8
Teremec SP, July 1994: 7
Terrazole, July 1994: 7
Terrazole contact, July 1994: 6
Tersan LSR, July 1994: 7
Tersan SO, July 1994: 7
thiophanate methyl, October 1994: 9
Thiram, October 1994: 9
for turfgrass disease control, January 1994: 1
2,4-D, April 1994: 3

Fusarium heterosporum, experiments, January 1994: 6
Fylking, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3

G

Gaeumannomyces graminis
See Take-All Patch (Gaeumannomyces graminis)
Gaeumannomyces spp., experiments, January 1994: 3
Gallery herbicide, November 1994: 9
Gallup survey, professional landscaping and lawn care services, September 1994: 11
gaseous nitrogen losses, September 1994: 3
genetically engineered plant species, September 1994: 13
Genus classification, August 1994: 11
Georgia, pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
germ tube, of Pythium species, July 1994: 2
German study, nitrate leaching, September 1994: 8
Glade, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
Gliocladium bacteria, January 1994: 3
Gliocladium virens
in bark composts, January 1994: 7
isolate of, June 1994: 15
glyphosate, April 1994: 14
golf course
annual bluegrass on, March 1994: 2
bent population, June 1994: 10
controlling Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 1
controlling speedwell, November 1994: 9
fairway conversion program, June 1994: 10–13
and nitrate leaching, September 1994: 8, September 1994: 9
perennial ryegrass on, April 1994: 4
Pythium snow rot, symptoms, August 1994: 15
reducing pesticide usage, November 1994: 13
scouting, March 1994: 4
goosegrass
considerations in fairway conversion program, June 1994: 12
controlling dithiopyr, April 1994: 15
controlling with pre-emergent herbicides, April 1994: 14
scouting, March 1994: 5
weeds, March 1994: 2
grass roots, organic matter and nutrients, November 1994: 11
1994: 3
grass shoots, organic matter and nutrients, November 1994: 3

greens establishment study, February 1994: 13
“Greens Restore” fertilizer, January 1994: 10

Grey Snow Mold
controlling with Typhula phacorrhiza, January 1994: 12
similarity to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
See also Typhula Blight (Typhula spp.)
ground ivy, March 1994: 5

grubs
analysis of new data, August 1994: 6
biological control for, May 1994: 13
densities in Kentucky bluegrass, August 1994: 4
density for whole site, August 1994: 5
feeding habits of, May 1994: 15
identifying, October 1994: 10
insecticide applications, August 1994: 2
low density in bluegrass, August 1994: 4
milky spore disease, controlling with, January 1994: 10
parasitic nematodes, controlling with, January 1994: 10
per sample, August 1994: 3
population density, August 1994: 4–5
recommended procedures, August 1994: 6
site characteristics, August 1994: 2–4
site damage threshold, August 1994: 2
study of populations in lawns, August 1994: 1, August 1994: 6
treatment threshold, August 1994: 4, August 1994: 5
white, controlled by nematode-based insecticides, January 1994: 12

H
hairy chinch bug (Blissus leucopterus hirtus)
geographic area, May 1994: 1
host and site conditions, May 1994: 1
in sampling cylinder, May 1994: 9
short-winged, May 1994: 1
study by Michigan State University, May 1994: 2
See also chinch bug
Hall, Jack, fairway conversion work, June 1994: 11

hard fescue
registering in your state, March 1994: 7
Silvex (2,4,5-T), March 1994: 8
Trifluralin, March 1994: 13
Turflon II, November 1994: 9
for weed control, March 1994: 6–7
high endophyte turfgrass seed, January 1994: 13
Hodgkin’s disease, and phenoxy herbicides, March 1994: 9
hollow tine aeration
benefits of, February 1994: 2
increasing root mass, February 1994: 12
reducing compaction, April 1994: 13
home lawn
chinch bug damage, May 1994: 2
perennial ryegrass on, April 1994: 4
scouting, March 1994: 4
homeowner, average estimated daily exposure to herbicides, March 1994: 10
homeowner landscaping, September 1994: 11
Homer (Greek poet), and fungicides, October 1994: 9
Honors Club, bentgrass experiments, June 1994: 13
horse manure, to suppress turf diseases, January 1994: 2
House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition, November 1994: 11
Hull, Richard
introducing, September 1994: 13
turf-soil ecosystem, September 1994: 13
human exposure, to pesticides, March 1994: 10
humic acid, November 1994: 3
humic fraction, November 1994: 5
humification, defined, January 1994: 15
humus
chemical composition, February 1994: 3
as dominant food reservoir, February 1994: 4
nitrogen compounds found in, November 1994: 4
in soil, February 1994: 3
Hydrojet deep cultivation technique, February 1994: 12
hydromulching, November 1994: 11
hydroxide ions, September 1994: 6
hyphae, in Rhizoctonia spp., June 1994: 2
hyphal swellings, of Pythium species, July 1994: 2

I
IBDU 18-3-24, January 1994: 11
IBDU fertilizer, January 1994: 10, September 1994: 9
IBM, short-sighted policy, August 1994: 10, August 1994: 15
Illinois experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
study on dormant fertilization, February 1994: 13
Indiana, pesticide recertification standards, September 1994: 12
induced resistance
defined, January 1994: 15
phenomenon, January 1994: 3
inoculants, defined, January 1994: 15
inorganic sulfur and iron compounds, conversion of, February 1994: 5
insect polymer, February 1994: 7
insecticides
“Biosafe” by Ortho and SDS Biotech, January 1994: 11
for chinch bugs, May 1994: 9
“Exhibit” by Ciba-Geigy, January 1994: 11
fatty-acid based, January 1994: 10
and human exposure, March 1994: 11
low-toxic, May 1994: 6
microbial, January 1994: 10
microbial “species specific,” January 1994: 10
nematode-based soil, January 1994: 11–13
resistance and role of genetics, May 1994: 13
“Vecter” by Biosys, January 1994: 11
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
adoption of, November 1994: 12–13
after the millennium, November 1994: 6–7
developments in, January 1994: 9
formula for success, November 1994: 4–5
future of, March 1994: 7
program at Cornell University, March 1994: 4
strategy, March 1994: 3
for weed infestations, March 1994: 1
See also biological control
Iowa College of Medicine, study of health effects of farming, May 1994: 14
Iowa State University, study on slow release fertilizers, February 1994: 12
IPM
See Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Iprodione fungicide, April 1994: 4; October 1994: 8
irrigation
effect on disease symptoms, April 1994: 8
system for fairway, June 1994: 11
when to avoid, April 1994: 4
J
Jamestown, resistance to Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 5
Japan
- grasses and flooding tolerance, study, September 1994: 12
- research on heat tolerance, September 1994: 12

K
- K-31 tall fescue
  - genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
  - leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
- Kansas
  - and National Cancer Institute studies, March 1994: 9, March 1994: 11
  - report on wetting agents, April 1994: 8
- Kenblue, leaf spot ratings, April 1994: 8
- Kentucky, study of feeding habits of grubs, May 1994: 15
- Kentucky bluegrass
  - close mowing of, April 1994: 9
  - composts for, January 1994: 6
  - cultivars, April 1994: 4
  - Dreschlera leaf-spotting disease, April 1994: 1
  - grub densities, August 1994: 4
  - on home lawns, April 1994: 4
  - hybrid, April 1994: 9
  - improved rooting, February 1994: 12
  - lack of endophytes, February 1994: 7
  - leaf spot ratings, April 1994: 8
  - “melting out,” April 1994: 1
  - nitrate absorption, September 1994: 9
  - resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
  - Rhizoctonia lesions on, June 1994: 6
  - salt sensitivity, December 1994: 5
- See annual bluegrass (Poa annua); bluegrass
- Kingdom classification, August 1994: 11
- Klebsormidium algae, February 1994: 14
- Koban contact fungicide, July 1994: 6
- Koban fungicide, July 1994: 7

L
- Laetisaria arvalis, controlling Brown Patch, January 1994: 12
- Laetisaria fuciformis
  - See Red Thread (Laetisaria fuciformis)
- Laetisaria fungus, January 1994: 3
- Laetisaria spp., experiments, January 1994: 3
- Lancaster County, study of nitrogen loads, September 1994: 10
- landscaping
- effect on home improvement value, January 1994: 14
- Gallup survey results, September 1994: 11
- using composts, December 1994: 1-5
- large brown patch
  - See Rhizoctonia solani
- lawn, misdiagnosing problems, October 1994: 10-11
- lawn age, and grub damage, August 1994: 2-3
- “Lawn Restore” fertilizer, January 1994: 10
- leaf blight
  - causes, April 1992: 2
  - and Dreschlera siccans, April 1994: 1
  - See also Dreschlera poae
- leaf mold, causes, April 1992: 2
- leaf spot
  - causes, April 1992: 2
  - on creeping bentgrass, April 1994: 6
  - on Kentucky bluegrass, April 1994: 1, April 1994: 8
  - and melting out, April 1994: 2
  - minimizing damage from, April 1994: 7
  - symptoms, April 1994: 2-3, June 1994: 3-4
  - temperature ranges, June 1994: 2-3
  - Zonate, April 1994: 2
  - See also Dreschlera poae
- leatherjackets, controlled by nematode-based insecticide, January 1994: 12
- Leptosphaeria korrae
  - See Necrotic Ring Spot (Leptosphaeria korrae)
- Lesco 4 fungicide, July 1994: 7
- Lesco Dwarf Tall Fescue seed blend, March 1994: 12
- Lesco Fine Fescue Links seed blend, March 1994: 12
- lignin, February 1994: 7
- lime, as cultural management technique, January 1994: 2
- lime sulfur, October 1994: 9
- liverwort, March 1994: 2
- lobate sporangia, July 1994: 4
- Loft’s Ecosystems Ecology seed blend, March 1994: 12
- Longfellow, resistance to Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 5
- Losito, Joseph F., question on speedwell, November 1994: 9

M
- Magnaportheae (Summer Patch), August 1994: 15
- Maine, pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
- Mancozeb fungicide
1994 Subject Index

introduced, October 1994: 9
on ryegrass, April 1994: 4
(+mancozeb) fungicide, July 1994: 7
Maneb, manganese-based formulation, October 1994: 9
manganese oxidation, February 1994: 5
Manhattan II, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dicyoides, April 1994: 4
maneure
cow, January 1994: 11
horse, January 1994: 2
Maryland, experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
Massachusetts
Department of Food and Agriculture Pesticide Bureau, January 1994: 13
pesticide recertification training, January 1994: 13
Mastigomycotina, classification, August 1994: 11
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), August 1994: 12
Maxis software, March 1994: 12
MedTIP, on-line pesticide database, November 1994: 11
melting out
of Kentucky bluegrass, April 1994: 1, April 1994: 2
minimizing damage from, April 1994: 7
phase, April 1994: 2
Merit
leaf spot ratings, April 1994: 8
resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
mesophilic phase
of compost production, January 1994: 5
defined, January 1994: 15
Mesotaenium algae, February 1994: 14
metabolic by-products, of soil, February 1994: 5
methylene urea, February 1994: 12; September 1994: 3
Michigan, experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
Michigan State University
aeration and rototilling, study of, February 1994: 12
anthracnose disease symptoms, study of, June 1994: 14
hairy chinch bugs, study of, May 1994: 2
suppressible products, tests on, January 1994: 10
microbe food sources, depletion of, November 1994: 4
microbes, suppressive, January 1994: 10
microbial antagonists, January 1994: 3
microbial community, in soil, February 1994: 4
microbial fungicides, February 1994: 6
microbial inoculants
alternatives in plant health management, January 1994: 9
compared to synthetic chemical fungicides, January 1994: 8
compatibility with other agrichemicals, January 1994: 8
competing with chemical fungicides, January 1994: 9
defined, January 1994: 8
future of, January 1994: 9
managing fungicide resistance, January 1994: 9
problems with, January 1994: 9
research, January 1994: 9
shelf life of, January 1994: 8
microbial insecticides, January 1994: 10
microbial mixtures, experiments, January 1994: 3
microbial viability, November 1994: 3
microbiological variability
in composts, January 1994: 7
defined, January 1994: 15
microbiology, of turfgrass soils, February 1994: 1
Micromonospora actinomycetes, February 1994: 7
microorganisms
nitrogen-fixing, February 1994: 7
nutrient-cycling, February 1994: 7
Midnight, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
milky spore disease
biological control for grubs, May 1994: 13
to control grubs, January 1994: 10
defined, January 1994: 15
Miller, Paul F., question on earth worm casts, November 1994: 9
Milorganite fertilizer, February 1994: 12
mineral nutrients, November 1994: 3
mineralization, September 1994: 3–4
Minor Crop Pesticide Act, March 1994: 7
misdiagnosing problems, October 1994: 10–11
mites, preying on chinchbugs, May 1994: 6
mitochondrial respiration inhibitor, October 1994: 9
mole crickets
nematode-based insecticide, controlling with, January 1994: 12
parasitic nematodes, controlling with, January 1994: 10
molecular biology, recent developments, January 1994: 9
Monarch tall fescue
genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
moneywort, March 1994: 2
monocot weed species, chinchbug infestations, May 1994: 1

21 • TURF GRASS TRENDS • MARCH 1995
Montgomery Township, Somerset County, NJ, question on removing thatch, November 1994: 10
Moody cow compost, January 1994: 11
Mortierella fungi, February 1994: 6
moss, March 1994: 2, March 1994: 3
Motor Carrier Safety rules, August 1994: 12
MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), August 1994: 12
muck soils, February 1994: 3
Mucor fungi, February 1994: 6
mugwort, March 1994: 5
mulch
Ohio State University study, March 1994: 12
waste paper, November 1994: 11
multinucleate classification, June 1994: 2, June 1994: 3
mycelium
aereal, July 1994: 5
ascospores, April 1994: 7
bacterial cells, February 1994: 1
and common soil fungi, February 1994: 3
defined, July 1994: 2
growth, October 1994: 2–3
of Pink Snow Mold (Microdochium nivale), October 1994: 5
in Rhizoctonia spp., June 1994: 2
Mycetaceae, classification, August 1994: 11
mycoparasites
defined, January 1994: 15
mycorrhizae, February 1994: 6
mycorrhizal fungi
benefit to turfgrasses, February 1994: 7
symbiotic associations with plant roots, February 1994: 6
Mystic, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
N
nabam, October 1994: 9
Nashawtuc Country Club, question on earth worm casts, November 1994: 9
Nassau, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
National Cancer Institute (NCI)
cancer in dogs, study of, March 1994: 9
cohort studies, March 1994: 11
human exposure studies, March 1994: 11
questionable conclusions of, March 1994: 8
reports on 2,4-D, April 1994: 12
National Coalition on Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), August 1994: 14
National Turf Evaluation Program, leaf spot ratings, April 1994: 8
Natktn, Todd, introducing, September 1994: 13
natural organic fertilizer, November 1994: 5
NCI
See National Cancer Institute
NCIPM (National Coalition on Integrated Pest Management), August 1994: 14
Neal, Joseph, recommendations for controlling speedwell, November 1994: 9
Nebraska
pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
study by Harvard School of Public Health, March 1994: 9
Necrotic Ring Spot (Leptosphaeria korrae)
analogists, January 1994: 3
compared to Pythium diseases, July 1994: 4
composts for suppressing, January 1994: 6
diseases, October 1994: 1; October 1994: 2
fertilizer considerations, February 1994: 12
field studies, January 1994: 11
similarity to Pythium root rot and crown rot, July 1994: 3
Neem oil extracts, May 1994: 6
Nelson, Eric B.
on biocontrols, January 1994: 15
studies of suppressive materials, January 1994: 11
on Transgenic plants, January 1994: 13
on visual symptoms, October 1994: 10
nematode-based insecticide, January 1994: 12
nematode-based soil, January 1994: 11–13
nematode-incited disease, August 1994: 8
net blotch
causes, April 1994: 2
on fescue leaves, April 1994: 5
on perennial ryegrass, April 1994: 1, April 1994: 5
symptoms, April 1994: 5–6
New York, experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
New Zealand
report on soil permeability, February 1994: 12
study on greens establishment, February 1994: 13
nimbleweed, March 1994: 5
Nippon Soda, thiophanate methyl, October 1994: 9
nitrate
concentration within root tip cells, September 1994: 6
form of nitrogen, September 1994: 3
ions, September 1994: 4–5

22 • TURF GRASS TRENDS • MARCH 1995
leaching, September 1994: 3
levels, September 1994: 8, September 1994: 9
pollution, September 1994: 8, September 1994: 10
potential ground water pollution, September 1994: 5
removed by root absorption, September 1994: 5
root absorption, September 1994: 8, September 1994: 9
soil-water levels, September 1994: 5
update by root cells, September 1994: 4
nitrification
activities in turfgrass soils, February 1994: 5
defined, September 1994: 3–4
in turf-soil ecosystem, September 1994: 1, September 1994: 4
*Nitrobacter* bacteria, February 1994: 5
nitrogen
absorption process, September 1994: 6
application protocols, September 1994: 13
chemical transformations, September 1994: 1
collected leachate, September 1994: 9
and complex carbohydrates, November 1994: 4
compounds found in humus, November 1994: 4
conservation practices, September 1994: 7
cycle in turf-soil ecosystem, September 1994: 1
fertilizer, September 1994: 1–2
fixation, February 1994: 5; September 1994: 1
gaseous losses, September 1994: 3
leaching, September 1994: 1–2, September 1994: 5,
September 1994: 7–10
loads, study of, September 1994: 10
minimum requirements, September 1994: 13
natural inputs and losses of, September 1994: 1
nutrition, February 1994: 6
organic, September 1994: 4
and organic decomposition, balance of, November 1994: 4
organic sources, September 1994: 3
storage, September 1994: 5
surface runoff, September 1994: 10
turf-soil ecosystem cycle, September 1994: 1, September 1994: 2
unaccounted for, September 1994: 2
volatilization, January 1994: 14, September 1994: 1,
September 1994: 5, September 1994: 10
*Nitrosomonas* bacteria, February 1994: 5
*Nocardia* actinomycetes, February 1994: 7
non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
and National Cancer Institute studies of 2,4-D, March 1994: 11
and phenoxy herbicides, March 1994: 9
risks, March 1994: 15
non-integrated pest management, August 1994: 6
North Carolina
experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
pesticide recertification standards, September 1994: 12
North Carolina State Universities, study on drought
tolerance, January 1994: 14
Northern Joint Vetch, in rice and soybean fields, January 1994: 10
Nostoc cyanobacteria, February 1994: 14
*NPK* 10-3-4, January 1994: 11
nucleic acid, and 2,4-D, March 1994: 8
nutrient management practices, September 1994: 10
nutsedge, March 1994: 5
Ohio
experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
studies of chinch bug populations, May 1994: 4–5
Ohio State University, study on mulch, March 1994: 12
Oklahoma State University, turf canopy temperatures,
study, September 1994: 11
Omega II, resistance to *Dreschlera siccans* and
*Pyrenophora diettyoides*, April 1994: 4
on-line pesticide database, November 1994: 11
Ontario, Canada, experiments with turfgrass pathogens,
January 1994: 3
Oomycetes, classification, August 1994: 11
Oomycota, classification, August 1994: 11
oospires
absence of in Pythium diseases, July 1994: 5
defined, July 1994: 2
of *Pythium* species, July 1994: 1
of *Pythium* species, August 1994: 11, August 1994: 15
orchardgrass, March 1994: 5
Order classification, August 1994: 11
Oregon, pesticide recertification standards, September 1994: 12
organic amendments, November 1994: 5
organic fertilizer, for Pythium diseases, July 1994: 6
organic fraction
*See* humus
organic matter
carbohydrates found in, November 1994: 4
carbon flow, November 1994: 5
composts as supplements for, December 1994: 3, December 1994: 4
and nutrients, November 1994: 3
organic nitrogen, conversion of, September 1994: 4
Oriental beetle (*Exomala orientalis*), August 1994: 2,
1994 Subject Index

August 1994: 6
Ortho, “Biosafe” insecticide, January 1994: 11
Oscillatoria cyanobacteria, February 1994: 14
Ourococcus algae, February 1994: 14
overseeding, July 1994: 14
Oxadiazon pre-emergent herbicide, March 1994: 13, April 1994: 15
oxalis, March 1994: 5
oxidation, September 1994: 4
oxygen levels, in soil, November 1994: 2
Pace fungicide, July 1994: 7
Pacer tall fescue
  genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
  leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
paintbrush, March 1994: 3
palletized mulch, November 1994: 11
panicums (witch) grass, March 1994: 5
parasitic algae, August 1994: 15
parasitic nematodes
  alternative to chemical control for grubs, January 1994: 10
  alternative to insecticides, May 1994: 6
  compared to chemical controls, January 1994: 12–13
  products, May 1994: 13
parasitic wasps, preying on chinchbugs, May 1994: 6
particulates, defined, January 1994: 15
pathogen inoculum, defined, January 1994: 15
PCNB fungicide, October 1994: 8
pearlwort, March 1994: 2, March 1994: 3
peat moss, January 1994: 11
Pendimethalin pre-emergent herbicide, March 1994: 13, April 1994: 14
Pennant, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dicytoides, April 1994: 4
Penncross (bluegrass), resistance to Microdochium patch, October 1994: 7
Pennington Drought seed blend, March 1994: 12
Pennsylvania
  Department of Environmental Resources, December 1994: 5
  experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
  pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
Pennsylvania State University
  development of waste paper mulch, November 1994: 11
  research on turf establishment, February 1994: 13
  turf establishment study, December 1994: 4
perennial grasses, scouting, March 1994: 5
perennial ryegrass
  nitrogen absorption, September 1994: 10
  Pythium aphanidermatum on, July 1994: 5
  permeability, and deep cultivation techniques, February 1994: 12
Peronosporales, classification, August 1994: 11
Peronosporomycetidae, classification, August 1994: 11
pesticide management zones (PMZ), September 1994: 11
pesticides
  aerial applicator, August 1994: 13
  application equipment, May 1994: 10–11
  avoiding drift, May 1994: 10–11
  barrier to widespread use, January 1994: 12
  Benymil, November 1994: 9
  biologically based, November 1994: 13
  chemical, November 1994: 13
  cost-benefit analysis, November 1994: 11
  degradation, February 1994: 5
  EPA proposal to exempt substances, November 1994: 11
  falsifying residue test results, August 1994: 13
  ground water pollution, November 1994: 12
  human exposure to, March 1994: 10
  MedTIP on-line database, November 1994: 11
  potential for misuse, May 1994: 10
  prescription status, November 1994: 12
  recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
  recertification training in Massachusetts, January 1994: 13
  Reduced Pesticide Initiative (R.P.I.), November 1994: 12–13
Sevin, November 1994: 9
  and site conditions, considerations, May 1994: 10–11
  special prescription status, September 1994: 11
  taxing manufacturers of, September 1994: 12
  2,4-D, March 1994: 8
Peterson, Doug, bentgrass experiments, June 1994: 13
pH level and fungi, February 1994: 6
pH-altering material, January 1994: 2
pharmaceuticals manufacturer, short-sighted policy, August 1994: 10
Phialophora radicicola, experiments, January 1994: 3
phosphate solubilization, February 1994: 5
phosphorous nutrition, February 1994: 7
Phosphorus, December 1994: 5
photosynthesis, February 1994: 7
1994 Subject Index

phototoxicity, March 1994: 6
phylogeny, of Pythium species, August 1994: 11
Phylum/Division classification, August 1994: 11
Phytophthora spp, January 1994: 10
phytotoxic, defined, January 1994: 15
phytotoxicity, July 1994: 14
Pink Snow Mold (Microdochium nivale)
appearance on close cut turf, October 1994: 3
composts for, January 1994: 4
conidia, October 1994: 1
early stages, July 1994: 3
on higher cut perennial ryegrass, October 1994: 6
mycelium, October 1994: 5
optimum growth range, October 1994: 6
previous names, October 1994: 6
similarity to Pythium root rot and crown rot, July
1994: 3
surviving as a saprophyte, October 1994: 6
Piper, C.D., research on Rhizoctonia solani, June
1994: 1
plant disease, defined, August 1994: 8
plant food, November 1994: 4
plant growth regulators, April 1994: 14
plant polymers, and actinomycetes, February 1994: 7
plant stress
influence in turfgrass diseases, January 1994: 1
and rescue chemistry, November 1994: 4
plantain, March 1994: 5
PMZ (pesticide management zones), September 1994: 11
Poa annua
chemical controls for, April 1994: 14
maintenance program, designing, April 1994: 14
and weed control, April 1994: 13
See also annual bluegrass
Poa annua spp. annua, biotype, April 1994: 13
Poa annua spp. reptans, biotype, April 1994: 13
Poa pratensis
nitrogen nutrition of, February 1994: 6
See also Kentucky bluegrass
Poaceae, April 1994: 10
Polluter Pays Bill, September 1994: 12
Polluter Pays Clean Water Act, March 1994: 6
porcupine quill, antibiotics on, August 1994: 10
pore space, in soil, February 1994: 2
post-emergence symptoms, of Pythium diseases, July
1994: 3
Potassium, December 1994: 5
Potter, Daniel, study of milky spore disease for controlling grub populations, May 1994: 13
Powdery mildew
controlling with lime sulfur, October 1994: 9
diseases, October 1994: 1, October 1994: 2
precipitation, September 1994: 1
pre-emergence symptoms, of Pythium diseases, July
1994: 3
pre-emergent herbicides
effects on crabgrass, March 1994: 13
groups, April 1994: 14
Premier, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4
prescription status pesticide, November 1994: 12
Princeton, resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
Principles of Turfgrass Management course, September 1994: 12
Prodiamine pre-emergent herbicide, March 1994: 13, April 1994: 14
Professional Lawn Care Association of America, September 1994: 11–12
Pro-Grass herbicide, June 1994: 10
Propamocarb fungicide, July 1994: 7
propiconizole fungicide, October 1994: 9
prostrate spurge, March 1994: 2
protein synthesis, and 2,4-D, March 1994: 8
Protoctista, classification, August 1994: 11
Pseudomonas bacteria, January 1994: 3, February
1994: 5
Pseudomonas spp.
combined with other fungal antagonists, January
1994: 7
experiments, January 1994: 3
public health, risk to, November 1994: 11
Puccinia spp., October 1994: 2
Pyrenophora
characteristics, April 1994: 1
classification, April 1994: 10–11
cultural control practices, April 1994: 9
cultural management of, April 1994: 8
disease cycle, April 1994: 7
diseases caused by, April 1994: 2
eliminating, April 1994: 9
and fertilization practices, April 1994: 9
and irrigation, April 1994: 8
and mowing practices, April 1994: 9
plant hosts, April 1994: 9
and reducing air flow, April 1994: 9
reproductive properties of, April 1994: 1
species, April 1992: 2
spore germination, April 1994: 8
symptoms, April 1994: 8
taxonomy of, April 1994: 10–11
wetting agents for, April 1994: 8
Pyrenophora dictyoides
conidia, April 1994: 6
disease development and control, April 1994: 6
1994 Subject Index

diseases caused by, April 1992: 2
hard fescue resistance, April 1994: 5
and nitrogen applications, April 1994: 9
and perennial ryegrass, April 1994: 4
of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue, April 1994: 1

*Pyrenophora erythrospila*
conidia, April 1994: 6, April 1994: 11
on creeping bentgrass, April 1994: 1
diseases caused by, April 1992: 2
and red leaf spot, April 1994: 6

*Pyrenophora “Leaf Spot,”* August 1994: 11

*Pyrenophora tritici-repens,* April 1992: 2

*Pythiaceae,* classification, August 1994: 11

*Pythiales,* classification, August 1994: 11

*Pythium,* classification, August 1994: 11

*Pythium addicum,* snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium aphanidermatum*
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
foliar mycelium of, July 1994: 5
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
oospores and sporangia, July 1994: 1
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium aristosporum*
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
oospores and sporangia, July 1994: 1
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium arrhenomanes*
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium Blight*
identifying, July 1994: 8
weather conditions, July 1994: 8-9

*Pythium Blight (Pythium aphanidermatum)*
antagonists, January 1994: 3
composts for suppressing, January 1994: 6
early stages on a golf green, July 1994: 4
in greenhouse test, January 1994: 7
Kansas report on, April 1994: 8
suppressing with thatch microbes, January 1994: 3

*Pythium catenulatum,* root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium dissotocum,* snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium graminicola*
on creeping bentgrass putting greens, January 1994: 4
oospores and sporangia, July 1994: 1

See also *Pythium root rot*

*Pythium intermedium,* root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium irregularare*
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
foliar blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium iwayami,* snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium myriotylum*
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium okanoganense,* snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium oospores,* February 1994: 3

*Pythium root rot (Pythium graminicola)*
advance stage infections, July 1994: 4
antagonists, January 1994: 3
controlling with suppressive materials, January 1994: 11
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
diseases, October 1994: 1; October 1994: 2
fertilizer considerations, February 1994: 12
foliar blights, July 1994: 6

confusion in identifying
control strategy, July 1994: 2
controlling, July 1994: 5-6
critical factors in success of control strategy, July 1994: 9
damping-off, July 1994: 6
defined, July 1994: 9
evolution of, August 1994: 15
factors determining form, extent, and severity, July 1994: 2
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
life cycle, July 1994: 2
post-emergence symptoms, July 1994: 3
pre-emergence symptoms, July 1994: 3
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
separate pest category, August 1994: 15
similarity to Necrotic Ring Spot, July 1994: 4
snow blights, July 1994: 6
spores, diversity of, July 1994: 1
symptoms, July 1994: 1
types of, July 1994: 8

*Pythium dissotocum,* root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium graminicola*
on creeping bentgrass putting greens, January 1994: 4
oospores and sporangia, July 1994: 1

See also *Pythium root rot*

*Pythium intermedium,* root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium irregularare*
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
foliar blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium iwayami,* snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium myriotylum*
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6

*Pythium okanoganense,* snow blights, July 1994: 6

*Pythium oospores,* February 1994: 3

*Pythium root rot (Pythium graminicola)*
advance stage infections, July 1994: 4
antagonists, January 1994: 3
controlling with suppressive materials, January 1994: 11
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
diseases, October 1994: 1; October 1994: 2
fertilizer considerations, February 1994: 12
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
isolates recovered from bentgrass roots, July 1994: 9
recovery, July 1994: 3-4
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
snow blights, July 1994: 6; August 1994: 15
symptoms, July 1994: 3; July 1994: 4
treatment with compost-amended topdressings, January 1994: 2
weather conditions, July 1994: 8-9
Pythium root rot Pythium graminicola, at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
Pythium rostratum, root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Pythium snow blight, October 1994: 3
compared to foliar blights, July 1994: 5
symptoms, July 1994: 5
Pythium snow rot, symptoms on a golf course fairway, August 1994: 15
Pythium species
characteristics compared to other fungi, August 1994: 11
chlorophyll content, August 1994: 11
classification of, August 1994: 11
discovery of, August 1994: 11
DNA studies, August 1994: 11; August 1994: 15
environmental conditions and plant stresses, July 1994: 2
oospores, August 1994: 11, August 1994: 15
pathogens, August 1994: 11
phylogeny of, August 1994: 11
taxonomic placement of, August 1994: 11
Pythium spp., October 1994: 2
Pythium tardicrescens
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Pythium torulosum
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
oospores and sporangia, July 1994: 1
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Pythium ultimum
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
damping-off disease, July 1994: 6
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Pythium ultimum pathogen, January 1994: 7
Pythium vanterpoolii
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
foliar blights, July 1994: 6
identifying, July 1994: 8-9
oospores and sporangia, July 1994: 1
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Pythium vexans, root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Pythium volutum
at cool and warm temperatures, July 1994: 9
root and crown rots, July 1994: 6
Q
quackgrass, March 1994: 5
quality control, for composts, January 1994: 8
quill, porcupine, August 1994: 10
quinclorac herbicide, November 1994: 9
R
Ranger, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4
raw organic matter, November 1994: 5
Rebell II tall fescue
 genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
recombinant DNA biology, February 1994: 8
red leaf spot
causes, April 1994: 2
of creeping bentgrass, April 1994: 1, April 1994: 6
disease development and control, April 1994: 6
symptoms, April 1994: 6
red sorrell, March 1994: 5
Red Thread (Laetisaria fuciformis)
antagonists, January 1994: 3
diseases, October 1994: 1, October 1994: 2
field study, January 1994: 11
susceptibility to, April 1994: 11
treatment with compost-amended topdressings, January 1994: 2
Reduced Pesticide Initiative (R.P.I.), November 1994: 12-13
regulatory issues
aerial pesticide applicator, Arizona, August 1994: 13
Clean Water Act, debated, January 1994: 14
Craven Laboratories, falsifying pesticide residue test results, August 1994: 13
E.P.A. emphasis on enforcement, August 1994: 13
E.P.A. proposal to exempt substances from pesticide laws, November 1994: 11
E.P.A. Worker Protection Standards (WPS), August 1994: 14
Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA), August 1994: 14
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), August
1994 Subject Index

1994: 12
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), August 1994: 13
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), November 1994: 13
Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT), August 1994: 12
HR 2543, Coastal Zone Management Act, March 1994: 6
HR 2199, Polluter Pays Clean Water Act, March 1994: 6
HR 2910, Risk Communication Act, March 1994: 7
HR 2199, Polluter Pays Clean Water Act, March 1994: 7
HR 967/S 985, Minor Crop Pesticide Act, March 1994: 7
HR 1360/S 389, containment standards, March 1994: 7
HR 1627/S 1478, replacing Delaney clause, March 1994: 7
Massachusetts, pesticide recertification training, January 1994: 13
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), August 1994: 12
Motor Carrier Safety, August 1994: 12
National Coalition on Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), August 1994: 14
pesticide management zones, September 1994: 11
Reduced Pesticide Initiative (R.P.I.), November 1994: 12–13
Resources Conservation and Recovery, March 1994: 6
S 1547, Safe Water Drinking Act, March 1994: 7
S 1114, Water Pollution Presentation and Control Act, March 1994: 7
taxing pesticide and fertilizer makers, September 1994: 12
U.S. Department of Agriculture, integrated pest management centers, August 1994: 14
U.S. Transportation Department (DOT), August 1994: 12
vehicles, August 1994: 12
Worker Protection Standards (WPS), March 1994: 6, August 1994: 14
Reliant, resistance to Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 5
Repell, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4
reproductive structures, of fungi, April 1994: 10–11
rescue chemistry, November 1994: 4
Resources Conservation and Recovery (RCRA), March 1994: 6
rhizobacteria, plant growth promoting, February 1994: 7
Rhizoctina sclerotia, on Astoria bentgrass, June 1994: 7
1994: 2
Rhizoctonia cerealis
classification, June 1994: 1
morphology, June 1994: 2
symptoms, June 1994: 3–4
Rhizoctonia diseases, October 1994: 1, October 1994: 2
Rhizoctonia oryzae
classification, June 1994: 1
morphology, June 1994: 2
symptoms, June 1994: 3–4
Rhizoctonia solani
asymptomatic distribution of, June 1994: 9
canopy structure, June 1994: 8
controlling with fungicides, June 1994: 8
correlation of leaf density to disease severity, June 1994: 8–9
disease severity in tall fescue, June 1994: 9
future field studies, June 1994: 9
geographical distribution of, June 1994: 3
identifying, June 1994: 9
infestations in tall fescue, June 1994: 9
morphology, June 1994: 2
research by C.D. Piper, June 1994: 1
similarity to Grey Snow Mold, June 1994: 8
symptoms, June 1994: 3–4
Rhizoctonia solani hyphe, February 1994: 3
Rhizoctonia solani Kuhn, June 1994: 1
Rhizoctonia spp.
binucleate, January 1994: 12
biology of an infection, June 1994: 5–7
controlling with colonized millet seed, June 1994: 15
effects of infestations, June 1994: 1–7
environmental conditions, June 1994: 2
experiments, January 1994: 3
foliar symptoms, June 1994: 4
geographical distribution of, June 1994: 3
hyphe and sclerotia, June 1994: 6
life cycle, June 1994: 4
management practices, June 1994: 7
morphology, June 1994: 2
non-symptomatic infections, June 1994: 6
properties of, June 1994: 3
reducing disease severity, June 1994: 15
right-angle hyphal branch of, June 1994: 6
sclerotia, June 1994: 2
shade, role of, June 1994: 2–3
symptoms, June 1994: 5
on tall fescue seedlings, June 1994: 15
teleomorph (sexual) stage, June 1994: 1
temperature, role in, June 1994: 2
temperature range, October 1994: 2
University of Nebraska research, June 1994: 2
vegetative hyphae or mycelia growth, June 1994: 4
1994 Subject Index

on warm-season turf, June 1994: 4
See also Brown Patch (Rhizoctonia solani)

Rhizoctonia zeae
- classification, June 1994: 1
- morphology, June 1994: 2
- symptoms, June 1994: 3–4

Rhode Island, pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12

rice, and Northern Joint Vetch, January 1994: 10

Ringer “Compost Plus” fertilizer, January 1994: 10
- Ringer “Greens Restore” fertilizer, January 1994: 10
- Ringer “Lawn Restore” fertilizer, January 1994: 10

Rinsgton, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4

Robogalia feast, to appease rust gods, October 1994: 9

Rohr & Haas, dithiocarbamate, EBDC, October 1994: 9

Roman literature, and fungicides, October 1994: 9

root absorption, removing nitrates, September 1994: 5

root and crown rot, incited by Pythium species, July 1994: 8

root necrosis, July 1994: 3

roots, nitrogen in, September 1994: 2

rototilling, February 1994: 12, December 1994: 3


R.P.I. (Reduced Pesticide Initiative), November 1994: 12–13


Rubigan systemic fungicide, July 1994: 6

Runaway, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4

rushes, March 1994: 2

Rust diseases, October 1994: 1; October 1994: 2; October 1994: 9

Rutgers University
- Captan fungicide, October 1994: 9
- research on endophytic fungi, January 1994: 13

ryegrass
- air, canopy, and soil temperature relationships, June 1994: 7

Brown blight and foot rot, April 1994: 4–5

clippings per cutting, March 1994: 12

composts for, January 1994: 6

diseases caused by Dreschlera and Pyrenophora, April 1994: 2

and Dreschlera siccans, April 1994: 1

endophytes of, February 1994: 6–7

in fairway conversion program, July 1994: 13

flooding, tolerance of, September 1994: 12

hairy chinch bug infestations, May 1994: 1

heat tolerance, September 1994: 12

high nitrogen levels, March 1994: 2

Kentucky study of grub populations, May 1994: 15

leaf blade chlorosis and lesions, April 1994: 3

leaf growth, February 1994: 14

melting-out symptoms on, April 1994: 4

net blotch on, April 1994: 5

and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 1

resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4

resistance to Microdochium patch, October 1994: 7

Rhizoctonia symptoms, June 1994: 3

scouting, March 1994: 5

Typhula blight, October 1994: 4

S
Safe Water Drinking Act, March 1994: 7

saprophytes, February 1994: 5

Scandinavian studies on herbicides, March 1994: 11

scarab species, August 1994: 2

Schenectady sludge
- compost, January 1994: 11
- to suppress turf diseases, January 1994: 2

scientific theories, March 1994: 8

sclerotia
- germination, October 1994: 2–3
- life cycle, October 1994: 2–3

sclerotia, in Rhizoctonia spp., June 1994: 2

Scotts Perfect Choice Shade seed blend, March 1994: 12

Scott’s Pro Turf fungicide, July 1994: 7

Scott’s Pythium fungicide, July 1994: 7

scouting
- Dollar Spot, May 1994: 8
- on high-visibility sites, March 1994: 5
- home lawns, March 1994: 4
- methodical approach, March 1994: 4
- in northern states, March 1994: 5
- times for warm-season grasses, March 1994: 5
- “w” pattern, May 1994: 9
1994 Subject Index

S.D. Certified, leaf spot ratings, April 1994: 8
SDS Biotech, “Biosafe” insecticide, January 1994: 11
seed
endophyte-infected, February 1994: 7
germination, November 1994: 11
seed blends, average clipping yields, March 1994: 12
seed contamination, of compost, December 1994: 3
Seed Research, Inc., high endophyte turfgrass seed, January 1994: 13
selection, defined, January 1994: 15
Sevin pesticide, November 1994: 9
sewage sludge
fungal and bacterial antagonists, January 1994: 7
sexual reproductive structures, of fungi, April 1994: 10
shade
and grub damage, August 1994: 3
role in Rhizoctonia spp., June 1994: 2–3
sheath spot, temperature ranges, June 1994: 2–3
sheep fescue, resistance to Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 5
shoot turgidity, November 1994: 3
shoots, nitrogen in, September 1994: 2
silicon dioxide, in soil, February 1994: 3
Silverado tall fescue
 genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
Silvex (2,4,5-T) herbicide
 contamination by dioxin, March 1994: 9
exposure of American soldiers, March 1994: 8
SimAnt software, March 1994: 12
Simazine, contaminating ground water, September 1994: 11
SimCity software, March 1994: 12
SimFarm software, March 1994: 12
Simmons, Joel, new contributor, November 1994: 13
Slender Speedwell (Veronica filiformis), November 1994: 9
slit seeding, November 1994: 10
smooth bedstraw, March 1994: 3
Smut diseases, October 1994: 1; October 1994: 2
snow blights, incited by Pythium species, July 1994: 8
snow mold pathogens, August 1994: 9
snow molds
 and cold weather diseases, October 1994: 1–8
See also Pink Snow Mold (Microdochium nivale)
snow scald, October 1994: 3
soft tissue sarcoma, and phenoxy herbicides, March 1994: 9
soil
aeration techniques, February 1994: 2
aggregates found in, November 1994: 4
air, canopy and temperature relationships, June 1994: 7
attributes of, February 1994: 1
bacterial composition, February 1994: 4
beneficial microorganisms in, February 1994: 4
biological activity, February 1994: 2
biological components, February 1994: 4
biological management, November 1994: 1–5
buffering, November 1994: 3
cations in, February 1994: 4
chemical properties, February 1994: 3
common fungi, February 1994: 3
compaction, February 1994: 2, November 1994: 2
compared to underlying bedrock, February 1994: 2
complexities of, November 1994: 2
components, February 1994: 2
and composts, December 1994: 2–3
damaging microorganisms in, February 1994: 4
excess water in, November 1994: 2–3
excessive salt accumulation, November 1994: 4
fumigant, October 1994: 9
fungal species composition in, February 1994: 4
granular structure, November 1994: 4
granulation, November 1994: 3
inorganic materials in, February 1994: 3
living microbial cells in, February 1994: 3
living organisms in, February 1994: 4
metabolic by-products, February 1994: 5
microbes, January 1994: 3, November 1994: 5
microbial communities, February 1994: 14
microbiological activities, February 1994: 3
muck, February 1994: 3
nematode-based, January 1994: 11–13
nitrogen in, September 1994: 2
nutrient ions, February 1994: 3–4
nutrient-holding capacities, February 1994: 3
nutrition, November 1994: 2, November 1994: 3
organic matter, November 1994: 2–3
permeability and deep cultivation techniques, February 1994: 12
pH level and fungi, February 1994: 6
physical and chemical characteristics, February 1994: 4
potassium, February 1994: 5
predominant bacterial activities, February 1994: 5
silicon dioxide in, February 1994: 3
1994 Subject Index

suppressive, February 1994: 6
temperature, effect on Pythium diseases, July 1994: 2
Urease enzyme, January 1994: 14
water nitrate concentrations, September 1994: 6
soilborne, defined, January 1994: 15
solid tine aeration, February 1994: 2, February 1994: 12
soluble salts, December 1994: 2; December 1994: 5
South Carolina, experiments with turfgrass pathogens, January 1994: 3
South Dakota, pesticide recertification standards, September 1994: 12
Southern Blight (Sclerotium rolfsii), antagonists, January 1994: 3
southern chinch bug (Blissus insularis)
  warm season infestations, May 1994: 1
See also chinch bug
soybean, and Northern Joint Vetch, January 1994: 10
Spartan, resistance to Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 5
special prescription status, pesticides, September 1994: 11
Species classification, August 1994: 11
species composition, and grub damage, August 1994: 3–4
spiders, preying on chinchbugs, May 1994: 6
sporantium, of Pythium species, July 1994: 2
Sporidesmium fungus, January 1994: 3
sporocarps, October 1994: 2–3
spreaders, December 1994: 3
Spring Dead Spot, fertilizer considerations, February 1994: 12
spurge, March 1994: 5
SR 4000, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4
SR 4100, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 4
SR 3000, resistance to Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 5
St. Augustine grass, southern chinch bug infestations, May 1994: 1
Stauffer, Vapam soil sterilent, October 1994: 9
sterol inhibiting fungicide, October 1994: 8, October 1994: 9
Stewart, Mark Steven, disposing of hazardous waste, August 1994: 13
Stone, David, bentgrass experiments, June 1994: 13
Streptomyces actinomycetes, February 1994: 7
Stuttgart study, nitrate leaching, September 1994: 8
Subdue fungicide, July 1994: 7
sulfates and ferric forms of iron, February 1994: 5
to sulfides, conversion of, February 1994: 5
summer annual grasses, March 1994: 5
Summer leaf spot (Bipolaris), October 1994: 10
Summer Patch (Magnaporthe poae)
  air, canopy and soil temperature relationships, June 1994: 7
  antagonists, January 1994: 3
  fertilizer considerations, February 1994: 12
  field study, January 1994: 11
  misidentified, August 1994: 15
  susceptibility to, April 1994: 11
Superintendents Diagnostic Short Course, October 1994: 10
Superkingdom classification, August 1994: 11
suppressive microbes, January 1994: 10
suppressiveness, defined, January 1994: 15
Summer leaf spot, air, canopy and soil temperature relationships, August 1994: 1
surface runoff, nitrogen, September 1994: 10
Sustane, January 1994: 11
Sustane (5-2-4) fertilizer, January 1994: 10
sweetclover, March 1994: 3
synthetic fertilizer nutrients, November 1994: 4
  very slow release, January 1994: 10
synthetic urea formaldehyde, September 1994: 3
T
Take-All Patch (Gaeumannomyces graminis)
  air, canopy and soil temperature relationships, June 1994: 7
  antagonists, January 1994: 3
diseases, October 1994: 1, October 1994: 2
  fertilizer considerations, February 1994: 12
Talaromyces fungus, January 1994: 3
tall fescue
  air, canopy, and soil temperature relationships, June 1994: 7
  Apache, June 1994: 8, June 1994: 9
  clippings, March 1994: 12
  composts for, January 1994: 6
  drought tolerance of, January 1994: 14
  endophytes of, February 1994: 6–7
  “Fawn,” June 1994: 9
  flooding, tolerance of, September 1994: 12
  heat tolerance, September 1994: 12
  high endophyte levels in, May 1994: 15
  Kentucky study of grub populations, May 1994: 15
  leaf growth, February 1994: 14
  net blotch on, April 1994: 5
  nitrogen absorption, September 1994: 10
  and Pyrenophora dictyoides, April 1994: 1
  resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8–9
  Rhizoctonia solani infestations, June 1994: 9
1994 Subject Index

Rhizoctonia spp. and Giboulardium virens, June 1994: 15
salt sensitivity, December 1994: 5
scouting, March 1994: 5
Typhula blight, October 1994: 4
University of Georgia study, May 1994: 14
tawny mole crickets, January 1994: 12
tax, pesticide and fertilizer manufacturers, September 1994: 12
taxonomic placement, of Pythium species, August 1994: 11
taxonomy, April 1994: 10
tea, suppressive, January 1994: 11
tear gas (chloropicrin), October 1994: 9
tassel, March 1994: 3
teleomorph (sexual) stage, of Rhizoctonia species, June 1994: 1
temperature ranges, of cold weather diseases, October 1994: 2
Teremec SP fungicide, July 1994: 7
Terrazole contact fungicide, July 1994: 6
Terrazole fungicide, July 1994: 7
Tersan LSR fungicide, July 1994: 7
Tersan SO fungicide, July 1994: 7
Texas A&M University
  air, canopy and soil temperature relationships study, June 1994: 7
drought tolerance study, January 1994: 14
Thanataphorus cucumeris
  See Rhizoctonia solani
thatch
  chinch bug infestations, May 1994: 2
  flow of organic matter and nutrients, November 1994: 3
  microbes, January 1994: 3
  nitrogen in, September 1994: 2
  percentage of antagonists, January 1994: 3
  removal, April 1994: 4
  removing, November 1994: 10
thermophilic phase
  of compost production, January 1994: 5
defined, January 1994: 15
Thiobacillus bacteria, February 1994: 5
thiophenate methyl, October 1994: 9
Thiram fungicide, October 1994: 9
thymeleaf speedwell, March 1994: 3
Tolerant Bluegrass seed blend, March 1994: 12
topdressings, compost-amended, January 1994: 2
Toronto creeping bentgrass, April 1994: 11
Touchdown
  leaf spot ratings, April 1994: 8
  resistance to Dreschlera poae, April 1994: 3
  Trailblazer tall fescue
  genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
  leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
transgenic plants, January 1994: 13
Transportation, U.S. Department of (DOT), regulations, August 1994: 12
triadimefon fungicide, October 1994: 9
(+triadimefon) fungicide, July 1994: 7
Tribute tall fescue
  genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
  leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
Trichoderma hamatum
  in bark composts, January 1994: 7
  experiments, January 1994: 3
Trichoderma harzianum
  in bark composts, January 1994: 7
  experiments, January 1994: 3
Trichoderma spp., experiments, January 1994: 3
Trifluralin pre-emergent herbicide, March 1994: 13
turf canopy temperatures, study, September 1994: 11
Turf Grass Trends, contributors, May 1994: 11
turfgrass industry
  adapting to change, February 1994: 11
  after the millennium, November 1994: 6
  and biotechnology, February 1994: 8
  and computers, February 1994: 10–11
  environmental concerns, February 1994: 10
  environmental stewardship, January 1994: 9, March 1994: 15
  equipment, February 1994: 7; February 1994: 11
  field management techniques, February 1994: 11
  future of the business, February 1994: 10
  future trends in research, February 1994: 8
  information management, February 1994: 14
  issues, March 1994: 13
  legislation, negative effects of, September 1994: 13
  management, February 1994: 7
  misconceptions, March 1994: 13–14
  organizational and business practices, February 1994: 10
  pest control methods, March 1994: 13
  and pesticide application industry, November 1994: 12–13
  pro-active stance, March 1994: 15
  products, February 1994: 7
  and public awareness, March 1994: 13
  recycling issues, February 1994: 8, February 1994: 14
  science and societal distrust, February 1994: 8
  services, February 1994: 11
  tests for pathogens, January 1994: 3, January 1994: 8
  Turflon II herbicide, November 1994: 9
turf-soil ecosystem
  cycle, September 1994: 1, September 1994: 2
  organic matter pools of, November 1994: 5
turkey litter, to suppress turf diseases, January 1994: 2
2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) pesticide
absorption of, March 1994: 8, March 1994: 10
average estimated daily exposure, March 1994: 10
case control studies, March 1994: 9
chemical composition, March 1994: 10-11
controversy, April 1994: 12
effects on internal plant functions, March 1994: 8
EPA grant for study, April 1994: 12
human exposure to, March 1994: 10
new standards, March 1994: 15
potential adverse health effects of, March 1994: 9
questionable techniques in studies, March 1994: 8
scientific data on safety, March 1994: 15
studies of, March 1994: 8
2,4,5-T (Silvex) herbicide
contamination by dioxins, March 1994: 9
exposure of American soldiers, March 1994: 8
Typhula Blight (Typhula spp.)
antagonists, January 1994: 3
causes, October 1994: 3
controlling, October 1994: 4
cultural practices, October 1994: 5
diseases, October 1994: 2
fungicides for, October 1994: 5
hosts, October 1994: 4
light exposure, October 1994: 5
sclerotia, October 1994: 8
site characteristics, October 1994: 4
soils, resistance to, October 1994: 4-5
symptoms, October 1994: 3
treatment with compost-amended topdressings, January 1994: 2
See also Grey Snow Mold
Typhula incarnata
research at Cornell University, January 1994: 12
temperature range, October 1994: 2
Typhula incarnata
Basidiocarps of, October 1994: 4
hyphae of, October 1994: 4
Typhula ishakariensis, January 1994: 12
Typhula phacorrhiza
controlling Gray Snow Mold, January 1994: 12
experiments, January 1994: 3

University of Arkansas, studies on role of shade in Rhizoctonia spp., June 1994: 2-3
University of California at Davis, nitrate absorption study, September 1994: 9
University of Florida, study of granular formulations of dithiopyr, April 1994: 15
University of Georgia
Bermuda grass research, May 1994: 14
pesticide recertification training, September 1994: 12
soil compaction study, February 1994: 2
University of Idaho, development of freeze-dried fungicide, January 1994: 12
University of Illinois
study on weed infestations and crop yields, August 1994: 14
turf canopy temperatures, study, September 1994: 11
University of Iowa, nitrogen volitilization study, January 1994: 14
University of Iowa College of Medicine, study of health effects of farming, May 1994: 14
University of Kentucky, study of milky spore disease for controlling grub populations, May 1994: 13
University of Maryland, study on pre-emergent herbicides, March 1994: 13
University of Nebraska
research on Rhizoctonia growth, June 1994: 2
studies of the biology of Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
University of Rhode Island, turfgrass tests, February 1994: 14
University of Vermont, question on speedwell, November 1994: 9
Urea
applications, February 1994: 13
field studies, January 1994: 11
and nitrogen, September 1994: 3
soil release characteristics, January 1994: 1
Urease enzyme, February 1994: 12; September 1994: 9
Urease soil enzyme, January 1994: 14
Urocystis spp., October 1994: 2
Uromyces spp., October 1994: 2
U.S. Department of Agriculture
field tests on Bacillus popilliae, May 1994: 13
integrated pest management centers, August 1994: 14
reorganization, November 1994: 12
U.S. studies on herbicides, March 1994: 11
U.S. Transportation Department (DOT), regulations, August 1994: 12
USGA Greens Section, research on Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 1
Ustilago spp., October 1994: 2
Vapam, soil sterilent, October 1994: 9
vascular system, and 2,4-D, March 1994: 8
1994 Subject Index

“Vecter” insecticide, January 1994: 11
vehicle regulations, August 1994: 12
velvetgrass, March 1994: 5
Veronica, March 1994: 4
Veronica filiformis (Slender Speedwell), March 1994: 5, November 1994: 9
Veronica spp. (speedwell), controlling, November 1994: 9
Verticillium fungus, January 1994: 3
Vertidrane deep cultivation technique, February 1994: 12
Vibramole deep cultivation technique, February 1994: 12
Villani, Michael
on earthworm problems, November 1994: 9
Rochester study, integrated pest management, August 1994: 6
Virginia Tech University, fairway conversion work, June 1994: 11
visual symptoms, October 1994: 10
v:v, defined, January 1994: 10

w
“w” pattern, May 1994: 9
Waitea circinata
See Rhizoctonia zeae; Rhizoctonia oryzae
Waldina, resistance to Pyrenophora diclyoides, April 1994: 5
warm-season Pythium
See Pythium Blight
wasps, parasitic, May 1994: 6
waste paper mulch, November 1994: 11
water, effect on Pythium diseases, July 1994: 2
water infiltration rate, February 1994: 13
Water Pollution Presentation and Control Act, March 1994: 7
web composts, December 1994: 3
weeds
choosing an herbicide for, March 1994: 6–7
control strategy, March 1994: 1
dicot sample, March 1994: 1
growth stages, March 1994: 1
identification references, March 1994: 3
identifying, March 1994: 1
managing with IPM, March 1994: 1
and mowing, March 1994: 3
phototoxicity, March 1994: 6
scouting, March 1994: 4
seeds, December 1994: 3; December 1994: 5
speedwell (Veronica spp.), November 1994: 9
statistical correlation between infestations and crop yields, August 1994: 14
treating with chemicals, March 1994: 6
West Virginia, pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12
white grubs, controlled by nematode-based insecticides, January 1994: 12
wild carrot, March 1994: 3
wild strawberry, March 1994: 5
winter annuals, November 1994: 9
witch grass, March 1994: 5
worker protection regulations, March 1994: 15
Worker Protection Standards (WPS), March 1994: 6, August 1994: 14
Wrangler tall fescue
 genetic resistance to Rhizoctonia solani, June 1994: 8
leaf weights and disease severity, June 1994: 9
Wyoming, pesticide recertification credits for home study, September 1994: 12

X
Xanthomonas bacteria, February 1994: 5
Xanthomonas maltophilia, combined with other fungal antagonists, January 1994: 7

Y
yard waste, to suppress turf diseases, January 1994: 2
yarrow, March 1994: 5
Yellow Patch (Rhizoctonia cerealis) on cool-season turf, June 1994: 5
symptoms, June 1994: 3–4
temperature ranges, June 1994: 2–3
yellow woodsorrel, March 1994: 2
Yorktown II, resistance to Dreschlera siccans and Pyrenophora diclyoides, April 1994: 4
Yuen, Gary
antagonistic fungi studies, June 1994: 15
biology of Rhizoctonia solani, studies of, June 1994: 8
correlation of leaf density to disease severity, June 1994: 9

Z
Zineb, dithiocarbamate, October 1994: 9
Zonate leaf spot, April 1994: 2
zoospores
defined, July 1994: 2
of Pythium species, July 1994: 2, August 1994: 15
zoysia grass
in fairway conversion program, July 1994: 13
hairy chinch bug infestations, May 1994: 1
How to profit from the past

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<td>March '94</td>
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